# Beech Green Primary School "Believe Grow Persevere Succeed" Newsletter for Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and most of all the Children,

# A special welcome back to school for all



During the lockdown, there was not a day in school when we did not think about our children and families.

In the main reception area of school, we have a new display; shining into our Family Café, our Beech Green Tree of Hope. It's been a happy week in school, now that everyone is back with us. It again feels and sounds like a place of learning and fun! We have been so impressed with how quickly the children have settled in. It seems hard to believe that the last time we saw you at the gate was the end of the autumn term.

This week all the classes have focused on being back together, over the next few weeks we will make sure they continue to learn. We have always been a school that views parents and carers as first educators for their children and have worked in partnership with you. This academic year you have taught your children almost as much as we have! So with that in mind, we will once again send home completed mini assessments for you to see what your child can and more importantly cannot do. These are the gaps we'll focus on over the summer term.



## Psychological First Aid – Free Course

There is a 3-hour free training course for children's professionals and parents...

There is an awful lot of research that is evidencing the short, medium and forecasting the long term harmful impacts of covid-19 and the lockdowns on children and young peoples' mental health and wellbeing. The recommended interventions include ensuring our children have staff and parents trained in signs and symptoms and know how to support children; so they have a trusted person at school and at home that they can speak to in an unbiased manner and so early signs can be spotted.

www.futurelearn.com/courses/psychological-first-aid-for-children-and-young-people



#### CYP Psychological First Aid online course - FutureLearn

Learn how to support children and young people using psychological first aid. On this 3-week course you will explore the techniques of psychological first aid (PFA), the globally recommended training for supporting people during emergencies.

www.futurelearn.com

## **Lateral Flow Device Testing**

As you are aware, all staff in Beech Green Primary School undertake twice-weekly COVID tests, using Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test kits. These tests are used to pick up A-symptomatic cases, but do not replace PCR tests for those people who have symptoms. Any person in primary school registering a positive LFD test is required to get a PCR test as these are deemed more accurate.

It is a very simple test to do and requires staff to swab the back of their mouth and nostril. It's not the most pleasurable of experiences, but it's over quickly! You can watch a video <a href="here">here</a> (Please note: the video is used for illustration purposes only).

This week, the government have extended this provision to all families who have children at Primary school; more information can be found here.

Currently, the most reliable way to access these tests is by ordering kits to administer at home, similar to those we use. You can access that page by clicking <u>here</u>.

Soon, the local testing sites, such as Hempstead Meadows, will become collection points and anyone 18 or over can collect 2 packs of home test kits which each contain 7 tests.

Most collection points are open from 1.30 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. You can check online if the location is open or busy before you go. You do not need to make an appointment. The testing sites are identified on this page.

Finally, if you do access this means of testing, you will need to report the results on this page.

Hopefully you'll find the information helpful. As we have said before, we can all do our bit to keep everyone safe and this is just one more way to do this. Of course, if you or anyone in your family has COVID-19 symptoms, then you need to self-isolate and immediately book at PCR test.

# **Congratulations to Miss McEvoy**

We have happy news to share with you that Aimee and Gavin welcomed their new daughter, Emilia Grace, who was born on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February. All are doing well.