

Beech Green Primary School

"Believe Grow Persevere Succeed"

Newsletter for Thursday 25th February 2021

School to Home – Week 8

Welcome to Term 4

Dear Parents and Carers,

So it's now official; the government has confirmed that schools will re-open to all primary school children on Monday 8th March. We are thrilled to be able to welcome back all the children and know what a difference this will make to them and you! Understandably, some children might be reluctant to return and you might be concerned about what safety measures we have put in place, these are listed below:

Over the next 7 working days a member of staff from each class will phone all our families, this is an informal, confidential conversation just to find out if there is anything more we can do to help either academically or emotionally. In the words of Mrs Weeks, 'it's like a reverse parents' evening'.

We have made some changes to our risk assessment in line with new guidance, which you can read from the homepage of our school website. www.beechgreenprimary.co.uk
'Beech Green Covid-19 Risk Assessment for full return 8th March 2021'

NEW

Staggered times for all classes - **please read attached letter - Full Opening March 8th for the list of times**
There is now a staggered system for drop off and pick up; to make this work it is important that:

- Families **do not arrive** before the allocated time
- If you have more than one child at school please drop off and collect **at the time of your eldest child.**

Parents and carers should not have to wait near the school site.

Any concerns or difficulties with the times please email admin@beechgreen.gloucs.sch.uk or phone the school 01452 722363.

Wearing masks – **see attached Full Opening March 8th**

- All parents and carers arriving at school must wear a face covering, please be aware that a member of staff will remind you if you forget. Anyone who is exempt will need to show this clearly.

The one-way system will continue, please do not leave bikes or scooters, only bring a small bag and please avoid talking to Beech Green adults or gathering near the school site to meet friends. Over the last 8 weeks it is likely that your little one has grown, do your best to ensure your child wears school uniform. However, if you have not been able to buy school shoes children can wear any sensible footwear, preferably ones they can do up on their own.

Thank you all for your support and hard work; I could not be prouder of a school community which has shown both strength and compassion. I know you will support us in our endeavour to keep everyone as safe as we possibly can.



What A Deliciously Delightful Surprise – thank you

Thank you so much to FABG for treating us all to wondrous chocolate brownies, bubbly and chocolates, so beautifully gift wrapped. Your kindness and thoughtfulness is much appreciated and was certainly a welcome boost to the start of what is now week 8 of the current lockdown. We hope you are all coping ok and we really look forward to welcoming you back to school. Not long now!



IMPORTANT – Breakfast Club and Out of School Club Re-starting

- Breakfast and After School Clubs (run by the Childcare Committee) will reopen, from Monday 8th March 2021.
- Families who previously had places at these clubs, prior to lockdown, may continue as before.
- This is different to the wrap around care that school has been offering during lockdown for some families and which will stop on Friday 5th March.
- Any families who have not previously had places at Breakfast or After School Club, but would now find childcare useful, need to enquire about the charges and apply for places to the Childcare Committee.
- Please email them at, info@beechgreennursery.co.uk
- The clubs will continue to operate in consistent bubbles, as they did before Christmas. The Guidance has not changed with regards to this. All the previous procedures regarding breakfast, snacks, hand hygiene, cleaning routines and dropping off and collecting your child will be the same as they were before Christmas. New families will have this explained to them.
- New invoices will be sent home with your child, when they start back with Breakfast and/or After School Club.
- If you have any questions, please do get in touch with the Childcare Committee on the above email.
- They look forward to welcoming you back from Monday 8th and have missed you!

There is some Government Guidance which they need to share with you and which states:

“From 8 March, out-of-school settings and wraparound childcare providers will be able to offer indoor and outdoor provision to all children. However, parents and carers will only be able to access settings for certain essential purposes. Therefore, from 8 March, providers should only offer indoor and outdoor face-to-face provision to:

- *vulnerable children and young people*
- *other children, where the provision is:*
 - *reasonably necessary to enable their parents and carers to work, search for work, undertake education or training, or attend a medical appointment or address a medical need, or attend a support group*
 - *being used by electively home educating parents as part of their existing arrangements for their child to receive a suitable full-time education*
 - *being used as part of their efforts to obtain a regulated qualification, meet the entry requirements for an education institution, or to undertake exams and assessments.”*

IMPORTANT – Holiday Club

The Government Guidance around opening Holiday Club has not significantly changed. The advice is that we are unable to take children from any other school (this makes up over half of our current children) and children would have to stay in consistent bubbles, like they do in Breakfast and After School Clubs. Importantly, this means that due to less children attending and higher staffing costs (1 member of staff per year group bubble) it is not financially viable for us to open for Easter 2021. We are also concerned that if we have only 1 child attending in a particular year group, they will be on their own all day with no one to play with! We realise that this news may be disappointing to some families and we are really sorry. We hope that with the rapid progress of the vaccine programme, the Government guidance will be amended, to allow us to open in the Summer holiday. We will let you know.

Caterlink Dinner Menu and ParentPay

With the return to school on 8th March, comes the offer of resuming a school dinner; there will be 2 options. The menu can be seen on our school website... www.beechgreenprimary.co.uk/dinner

- Dinners remain £2.32 per day (£11.60 per week)
- Would parents of children in Years 3 to 6, please check your child's dinner balance on ParentPay and top up your account where necessary
- If you think you may now be entitled to claim Free School Meals, then please apply online at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals
- Children in Years Rec to Y2 are still entitled to a universal free dinner
- Many thanks

TT Rockstars

Well done if you've been Times Tabling your way through the week already. Yesterday Beech Green ended the day in the 13th position. Frisia were 7th and Hawthorn were also in the top 30! One of our pupils is currently in 3rd place!!! You ROCK Beech Green. <https://twitter.com/ttrockstars>

World Book Day

Next Thursday, 4th March, is World Book Day. We won't be dressing up this year, but the children will have some world book day activities to look forward to. www.worldbookday.com

Quedgeley Library

Quedgeley Library have sent some information explaining what they are offering to enable local people to continue reading and to access library resources. Firstly the great news is that staff there are also working hard to ensure that when given the go ahead by the government, Quedgeley Library will be ready to open again to the public as soon as possible.

Whilst closed, the general public are still offered a 'click and collect' service whereby library members can go online to order books which they can then collect from the library during a selected time slot. Members are encouraged to call the library on 01452 721233 if they would like to choose books or order books in. New members can also still be registered over the phone and make appointments to go to the library to collect books.

Gloucestershire Libraries also have an extensive catalogue of E-books and Audiobooks which any member can access from the Library Website. Here is the link to their website where you can get information about all that libraries are offering at the moment.

<https://gloucestershire.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/HOME>

Peripatetic Music Teaching

To let you know that once school can resume, Mrs Sally Griffiths will be able to continue her private music teaching in school. When we are permitted to resume peripatetic music learning, then Mrs Griffiths will be available for guitar and/or piano lessons from beginners to grades. If you would like to make an enquiry, then please email admin@beechgreen.gloucs.sch.uk so that we can forward your details.

admin@beechgreen.gloucs.sch.uk covid19@beechgreen.gloucs.sch.uk