



Bussage C. of E. (Aided) Primary School  
The Ridgeway, Bussage, Stroud, Glos.  
GL6 8FW

Head Teacher: Mr. Andrew Ferguson, B.A. (Hons)  
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11<sup>th</sup> September 2020,

Dear Parents,

We have now completed our first full week with the new system in place and I wanted to congratulate you all on working hard in supporting us to make it a success. The children have been equally brilliant and I know the staff have continued to work with a high level of professionalism and dedication throughout. So, thank you everyone.

I also want to thank parents for the faith you have put in us by sending your children back to our school. I know I speak for everyone when I say how delighted we are to hear the sound of a full playground at break time and the chatter of children in the classrooms.

**Welcome:** We welcome two members of staff to our team here at Bussage. Mrs Cox has taken up her role as our new School Business Manager. I know many of you will already have met her over the past couple of weeks. Mrs Howe also joins our Key Stage 1 team and will be teaching in Years One and Two. I am sure you will help them feel welcome (if from a distance) over these next few weeks.

**After School Club and Breakfast Club:** I know that many of you rely heavily on our wrap around provision and I am so grateful for your patience and understanding whilst we have taken stock of the situation we currently find ourselves in. It was never the intention to use these clubs to make money for the school, however, the school cannot run these clubs at a loss as this would impact on the school as a whole. We have had to look very closely at demand in the current climate. I suppose my message to parents would be summarised as **use it or lose it**.

I am delighted to say both clubs will resume on **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September** with some inevitable operational changes.

- The children will be dropped and collected from the playground door and remain in the school hall within their 'bubbles'. These 'bubbles' will inevitably be slightly bigger than the class bubble but will still restrict contact. So Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be in one 'bubble', year 3 and 4 another and year 5 and 6 the final one.
- Fees will be £5 per hour across all clubs and at all times.
- There will be no tea provision at After School Club at the moment. Breakfast will continue to be provided.
- If your child is poorly during a session, parents will be required to respond immediately to any contact. In this climate, children displaying symptoms will be self-isolated and it will not be acceptable for parents to choose to pick up a poorly child when it is convenient. I am sure I have all of your support in this.

This will run up until Christmas and we will keep monitoring costs. I am relying on more people taking up our offer to increase the sustainability of this provision. I am attaching Booking Forms for both clubs and ask you to return these to us ASAP to secure your space.



**Request for absence:** Obviously, I don't need to tell you that during this period, all of our children have had a massive disruption to their education. In some cases, children have been away from the classroom for six months. We are all about to embark, on a huge catch up programme. I am confident that with our dedicated staff, supportive parents and motivated children, we can work together to achieve this. It goes without saying that **any** requests for children to come out of school for holidays during this academic year will not be considered. All of our children now need to be in school at every possible opportunity.

**Observations:** As we end the first week this is an opportunity to reflect on what is going well and what perhaps isn't. I am really grateful to parents maintaining social distancing on the playground. However, we still have a number of people coming to school too early which maximises the potential to wreck our system of bubbles. Please, please, please come in to school during your time slot.

If your child starts at 8:50 please don't come in at 8:40 as it increases the risk of crossing groups. I had thought that a 20 minute gap between the main stagger would work, now I am not too sure. I don't really want to delay the start of the day until 9.15am and lengthen the end until 3.30pm but I may have to consider it. I am grateful to those parents who see the wisdom in dropping their child and leaving immediately. That helps greatly. If we can all aim to arrive punctually within the time slots and leave immediately, this might work.

I am also really grateful to the vast majority of you who have heeded my request to not engage in dialogue with teachers at the start of the day. It is really helpful, as the start of the day with hand washing and temperature checks is extremely busy.

I know children really enjoy bringing in sticker cards and other things from home. At the moment we are asking only for essential things to come to school.

**PTA:** I am very grateful to the PTA, together with Quiz Master **Matt Spires** for successfully running an on-line cryptic quiz over the summer break. The top 4 teams were (marks out of 53, so the scores were very impressive!):

1. 47 points The A46ers. Prize - **£40 Cook voucher**
2. 45 points Hale Stormers. Prize - **£25 voucher for The Ram**
3. 37 points Eddie Quizzard. Prize - **£15 voucher for The Green Shop**
4. 36 points Slap \*\*\*\*\* and call me Sally. Prize - **£10 voucher for Felt Café**

Congratulations to the winners and well done to the PTA for coming up with new and imaginative ways of organising events during this time. I suspect we will need to continue to be creative in the months ahead.

**Remote Learning:** As mentioned in my letter 10<sup>th</sup> July, I will begin to collect information via a questionnaire on what each family has by way of access to Remote Learning. As we watch cases of the virus rise across the country it is only right that we prepare. My feeling is that whilst a full closure of schools again is unlikely, there may well be times where some of our children have to self-isolate for fourteen days. If this happens, we all need to be well prepared to maintain that child's education at home whilst the rest of the class is in school. I am currently looking into this provision and will be contacting you next week for further information. As always many thanks in advance.

Kind regards

A Ferguson  
Head Teacher