



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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4<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents,

**Mrs Simmonds:**

During the summer term, Mrs Simmonds took the decision to retire early from her position of Teaching Assistant at Bussage Primary School. She has worked here for many years and was a valued and wonderful member of staff. Due to the current situation, we haven't seen Mrs Simmonds since March and it is extremely sad that we have been unable to give her the send-off and thanks which befits someone with such long and dedicated service. I am hopeful that we will be able to invite Mrs Simmonds back in better times to mark her retirement properly and give her the heartfelt thanks she deserves.

This term we have all been massively grateful to **Mrs Shone** who changed her roles with us with little notice and stepped in to cover as Teaching Assistant in Year 5 whilst a permanent appointment could be made. Thank you Mrs Shone!

I am now in a position to tell you that from Monday **Mr Haydock** will be the new Teaching Assistant in Year Five, initially working with Mrs Shone until she takes up her original role with us.

**Christmas:**

This year may have a different feel to it and many of our traditional activities may have been curtailed but there are some things to look forward to and draw to your attention.

As in previous years we are still concerned with the sustainability of the Christmas card industry and its impact on the environment. We are therefore requesting that if a child should want to send Christmas greetings, one card comes in addressed to the whole class so that a display can be made in the class. At this time we are clearly not encouraging people to bring things in from home to share with others. Thanks for your support.

I am extremely grateful to the PTA for funding **The Selfish Giant**, an on-line pantomime that the whole school will be viewing together during the last week. It promises to be a lot of fun.

**Last day:** As with previous years, we are finishing early on the last day. Unlike previous years, the end times will need to be staggered with the usual caveat that if one of your children is in the later pick up group, please come at 1.30pm. We will hold on to their siblings so that the family group can be collected in one go. The times are:

Rainbows, Year One, Year Four and Year Five	<b>1.00pm</b>
Year Two, Year Three and Year Six	<b>1.30pm</b>

If this is problematic for any of you please let me know.



**Copsegrove Farm:** Attached to this letter is a flyer for Copsegrove Farm Christmas Bubbles. Bring a **Bussage Bubble**. We have worked with the farm as a school on numerous occasions and the activities are excellent. The Farm is aiming to entertain children from our school provided they are all in the same bubble. This is to maintain the safety arrangements we have painstakingly had in place this year. If parents want to arrange this between themselves, the details are on the flyer.

**Christmas in the Community:** A message from Rev. Sue Murray that they have set up some online Advent Calendars for children and adults. The Links are below.

Benefice Advent calendar for children: [Home \(wixsite.com\)](#)

For adults: [Home | Advent 2020 \(wixsite.com\)](#)

The Benifice is also starting a Facebook page to support local families and a letter about this is attached.

**Start and end of day:** As we near the end of term, with talk of vaccines on the way, it is all too tempting to let down our guard. Staff have observed children playing football on the field, climbing on the Adventure apparatus and running around the playground with other children from multiple bubbles at the beginning and end of the day. This negates all of the hard work myself and the staff are putting in, to keep everyone safe. So, if you are dropping off or collecting children from school, please keep them by your side at all times to prevent this risky behaviour. We are too close to the end of term to afford any mistakes spoiling Christmas. I know the Government is fond of saying “schools are safe” and I can well believe that this message might cause parents to relax whilst on the school grounds. I have to tell you we can only maintain a level of safety if we all stick to the rules and stick to bubbles both in and out of school.

Thank you for your support in this.

Kind regards

A Ferguson  
Head Teacher