



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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18th December 2020

Dear Parents,

We have reached the end of term. Well done to all parts of our school community for pulling together. Every member of staff connected with the school, together with our governors, have worked hard to keep the school as safe as possible and we have been massively supported by your good will and generosity of spirit. We have been particularly impressed by the resilience and brilliance of all of the children in school. They have been truly inspirational and I am sure you are as proud of them as we are. I wish them all a happy Christmas! So thank you everyone. I know it will be a very different Christmas but whatever you and your family are doing I hope you find time to have some rest together whilst **staying safe!**

You won't be surprised to hear that the current arrangements of staggered drop off and pick up times will remain in place after Christmas and through until Easter when they will be reviewed in line with the situation at that time. Like you, I hope by April, with warmer weather, and a vaccination programme in full swing, that the summer term might look a bit more normal.

PTA: The children enjoyed a fantastic Christmas dinner on Wednesday. The crackers, kindly donated by the PTA, really added to the occasion. The more observant of you will notice welly racks going up around the school. Again, this is courtesy of our PTA and makes managing the school so much easier. This has been a very tough year for PTAs across the country. So, I thank all of the PTA for their continued support.

Test and Trace over the holidays: I wanted to reiterate last week's message.

Public Health England have advised us on what parents should do in relation to contacting the school if their child develops COVID-19 symptoms over the Christmas break. This advice is to enable school to assist in Track and Trace:

- Where a child or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, having developed symptoms **more than 48 hours since being in school**, school should **not** be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.
- For the first 6 days after teaching ends, if a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus, having developed symptoms **within 48 hours of being in school**, the school will be asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school. To be clear within 48 hours would mean **Friday 18th December, Saturday 19th December** up until the evening of **Sunday 20th December**.



If you need to contact the school about a COVID-19 case, please e-mail on: admin@bussage.gloucs.sch.uk this e-mail address will be checked once a day. I will be informed of any cases and remain contactable throughout. I will contact the Department for Education (DfE) coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline and follow their advice and assist with contact tracing as necessary over the first 6 days, including Thursday 24th December. The DfE believe this time window will allow enough time for positive COVID-19 cases to be identified and confirmed by a test and for relevant contacts in school to be traced. If I need to contact you in relation to Track and Trace in the holidays it will be through the school text/e-mail service.

Virtual Nativities: Due to technical issues (mine) we are now sending links to the Bussage YouTube Channel where the videos are securely stored. These should have come to you at the time of this letter coming out. We hope you enjoy them!

The Great British Dance Off: Three girls represented Bussage in a national dance competition called 'The Great Big Dance Off'. They each had to perform and record a dance which was then entered into the virtual solo competition. Phoebe, Anya and Alex's performances were fantastic and really creative. Phoebe finished in 20th place out of the top 100 dances entered. Anya finished in 35th place and Alex finished in 43rd place. Fantastic achievements all round!

After School Club: A quick plea to all of those parents who use our After School Club facility. If you are arranging for someone else to pick up your child instead of you, they **must** have the password in order to do so. Clearly this is a very important safeguarding requirement and we will not allow your child to leave the After School Club with anyone unable to supply the password. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Finally a reminder that we return to school on Monday 4th January 2021! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Kind regards

A Ferguson

Head Teacher