



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

Head Teacher: Mr. Andrew Ferguson, B.A. (Hons)

Tel: 01453 883205

email: admin@bussage.gloucs.sch.uk



15th July 2021

Dear Parents,

This is my final letter for the academic year 2020-21. A year we will never forget! At the time of writing we appear to have made it to the end in good condition. (I hope by writing I haven't tempted fate).

I think as a school community, as we reflect on the toughest of years, we can all take some pride in how we have all navigated our way through these stormy waters as a team. I shall endeavour to now offer my thanks.

Firstly, I want to thank the **Governors** who have supported me in challenging me, advising me but perhaps most importantly, supporting me whilst I have tried to make sense of guidance from many different quarters. I especially want to thank **Mat Symons** (Vice-chair) and **Richard Bedford** (Chair), for the huge amount of time they have devoted to me and the school with many meetings and virtual chats during these past months.

I want to thank all of the **parents** for so many things. You have responded brilliantly to requests made with absolute support. Your participation in Remote Learning was fantastic and that is one of the main reasons we are so well placed going into the next academic year. You have coped with the many disappointments and cancellations of events, being in Zoom parent meetings and being locked out of my first Zoom assembly, to name but a few. I am also delighted to see that the PTA have survived this period and I am looking forward to working with them in the year ahead. So on behalf of all of the staff to all of the parents. **THANK YOU!**

The **staff**. Well what do I say? Every member of the school staff and those associated with the school have stepped up and performed above and beyond expectations this year.

- The kitchen staff have been cheerfully working away throughout, providing food for the children.
- Mid-day supervisors have been in the position of interacting with many pupils from different 'bubbles' despite the risk to themselves.
- The After School Club and Breakfast Club staff have kept things going all year to provide vital care for the children and support working parents.
- Teaching Assistants had to step in and teach whole classes of children during the Lockdown to enable teachers to provide Remote Learning to those at home.
- Cleaners have worked tirelessly and carefully to make sure the school has been kept clean during this time. A clean school is a safe school and their hard work has kept us safe.
- Office staff at the front desk interacting with worried parents and supporting the rest of us in school brilliantly.
- Teachers who had to get their collective heads around Remote Learning having been told on Sunday January 3rd that schools would remain open and then being told 24 hours later that on second thoughts they were going to close. They have coped with all of these challenges with amazing resilience and I know how many of you have appreciated what they have done.



Finally, I want to thank all of the children for showing us what resilience is all about. I know I speak for all the staff when I say that whilst the rest of the world has been very different, the consistency of being with and working with children continues to be immensely rewarding. The children came back in March ready to learn and you backed us and put your trust in us by sending them in, as shown by our incredible attendance figures for the period.

Well done everyone. Time for a rest!

Goodbye

At the end of this year, we have some goodbyes. Mrs. Fisher is leaving her role as Teaching Assistant in Year One. I know that I speak for everyone when I say that she will be really missed by us all and I want to thank her for her hard work and dedication to the school during her time with us.

We have some pupils moving on to new schools in September and we wish them the best of luck.

Our Year 6 leave us today. What a Year 6 they have been! I have mentioned it in the Leaver's Assembly but I will say it again. They have been such a wonderful year group. They have had it particularly tough this year but have cheerfully dug deep and achieved well. I know that they are ready for the next stage of education, and like you, I don't need some standardised assessment test from the government to tell me that. I just need to talk to them. I know they will do us proud in their next school.

Speaking of being proud. I was delighted to read that our ex-pupil **Izzy Cook** has just signed a two year professional contract with **Bristol City WFC**. It is so brilliant to hear that one of our ex-pupils is doing so well.

E-Scooter information

Attached is a flyer from PC Weedon regarding information and legislation in relation to E-Scooters.

Finally

I wish you all a wonderful, safe summer and hope you enjoy whatever you are doing. School starts for the children on Monday September 6th with an end to staggered starts and 'bubbles'. So I look forward to welcoming you at 08.50am and remind you that the day ends at 3.15pm.

I am sure that I will need to communicate with you during the break, so please keep an eye out for any emails or texts.

Kind regards



A Ferguson
Head Teacher