



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



1st November 2021

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after half term. We have **now** returned and **today** we are in a position to assess the situation in school with regards to the rising cases of COVID 19 within our locality.

A number of positive tests have come back during half term for children who attend our school. In two classes (Years 3 and 5) the threshold of five or more cases within a ten day period has been reached. I have therefore reported this to, and consulted with, the Department for Education helpline.

I am sure you will be reassured to know that they recommended the changes we had already decided to put in place at the start of this half term. Referring back to my letter of 22nd October 2021 these include changes mainly around gatherings of the whole school community. We will:

- dispense with any gatherings of pupils for assemblies (including work of the week) and the school hall will once again be segregated by screens and permanently set up for lunch time arrangements for the time being
- stagger our lunch times. Rainbows, Y1, Y2, and Y3 will have lunch from 12.00 -1.00pm, whilst Y4, Y5 and Y6 will have lunch from 12.30 – 1.30pm
- re-introduce the requirement for visitors into school to wear face coverings in communal areas. All staff will also wear face masks in communal areas for the next two weeks
- run Breakfast Club and After School Club as normal
- suspend our participation in any inter-school tournaments at this time
- delay the start of **some** clubs until possibly Monday 15th November (these were outlined in my letter dated 22nd October 2021.) Forest School and Cross Country to go ahead unless the situation changes
- enhanced cleaning in affected classrooms
- monitor and encourage greater ventilation whilst maintaining comfort in class
- encourage social distancing at drop off and pick up times

The Department for Education also suggested we issue parents with a **Warn and inform letter**. I enclosed the contents of this letter in my newsletter to you dated 20th October 2021.



Both my newsletters of the 20th and 22nd October can be viewed on our website.

I want to thank parents for informing us of positive Lateral Flow Tests and PCR Tests. For any other parents leaving messages on the phone system, if you could give us the date on which your child tested positive, that would really help our record keeping and reporting. For context we have had 12 confirmed cases in staff and children during the break.

I shall continue to monitor cases and if other classes start to reach the threshold, you will be informed. I will liaise with the Department for Education as cases become known. I will also be in touch with the Local Authority should cases in staff reach a level where the effective running of the school is being compromised. I am sure you won't be surprised to know that supply teachers are in huge demand during this period.

For those children isolating, we will be putting Remote Learning up on to Google Classrooms during the period of isolation. If you are having any trouble accessing this or need a Chromebook, please contact the school immediately.

I am grateful to the vast majority of parents who have shown their patience and understanding during this time. As you can appreciate, today had largely been taken up with sifting messages and ascertaining who is off school.

Kind regards

A Ferguson

Head Teacher