



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



28th January 2022

Dear Parents,

We are now two thirds of the way through the winter months and I am sure many of you, like me are looking forward to the onset of spring. We have seen a spike in COVID cases in **Years 1 and 4** and more recently in **Year 6**. We continue to put in the safeguards of increased hand washing and reduced mixing within school through staggered lunchtimes and no collective worship. When put into context with the national picture and local schools I am extremely grateful to parents who have kept us informed of cases and for continuing to test their children.

I think the realisation that we are going to have to live alongside COVID is becoming more evident. I would reiterate that the best way for us all to do this is if everyone eligible for the vaccine, has the vaccine.

Attendance: We continue to monitor attendance within the school. Children who are absent due to COVID related reasons, such as a positive test, having to isolate, or having to shield, do not have their attendance figures affected. So when I check children's attendance rates, and they have been absent for 10% of their school sessions or more (causing the Local Authority and myself serious concern) this is for children with poor attendance unrelated to COVID. I have to say I am surprised at the high number of children who fall into this category at present. I shall be writing to parents shortly, who have children who fall into this category. I am aware that we have had a number of children who have been ill. However, if parents are thinking of taking a child out of school for any reason, I suggest they look carefully at their child's current attendance figures before doing so!

PTA AGM: You will have received notification via the school that the PTA Annual General Meeting is to be held **virtually on 16th February at 7.30pm**. Please come along and support this if you can.

Kind regards

A Ferguson

Head Teacher

