



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

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Dear Parent / Carers,

**After School Club:** There is little doubt that the COVID pandemic has had a serious affect on the After School Club and the resulting change in peoples working arrangements has led to a significant decline in the demand for wrap around care. The financial impact of this on the school has led governors to consider how viable the current offer is. For example, we have a maximum of two children occasionally using a fully staffed After School Club on a Friday and we are also noticing that very few people require care after 5:15pm (although we are staffing the facility).

I don't know if there are parents out there who may require After School Club places in the near future. I have therefore set up a questionnaire on Google for parents to indicate any future need. This information will be vital as we move forward. I certainly don't intend to close the After School Club, but I do need to check which sessions are attended well enough to be sustainable. It was never the intention to make a profit from our wrap around care. However, the losses we are currently incurring due to changes in working practices are unsustainable. The link is below.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeAq6wzWvmJVafdDjHFgF9fCa2nBJ3EoViKe921Dfa9u3DjFA/viewform?usp=pp\\_url](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeAq6wzWvmJVafdDjHFgF9fCa2nBJ3EoViKe921Dfa9u3DjFA/viewform?usp=pp_url)

**PTA:** Last night was the PTA Annual General Meeting. I wanted to firstly thank the twelve or so parents who managed to attend the zoom meeting. Mrs Pockett has agreed to fill the role of Interim Chair of the PTA, until an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) can be held to appoint a permanent Chair. Without a Chair, the PTA cannot exist. So at the time of writing, the very existence of the PTA is in very real peril, at a time when school funding is so dire that we as a school rely on their support now more than ever.

We are funded on pupil numbers. This year, with 30 Year 6 children leaving and 18 Reception children joining, balancing a depleted budget will be more challenging for the governors than ever before. When you set this against soaring costs and higher overheads, the outlook is bleak. Without a PTA it is considerably bleaker.

I know that there are many of you who step up and support the PTA when the call goes out for stall holders, or Bear Hunt designers, donations and so much more. The PTA will be arranging a meeting (in the pub) soon, to find a way forward ahead of an EGM. I would urge as many of you as possible to support this so that we can continue to have a strong PTA here at Bussage.

**Spiritual Garden:** We are desperately wanting to revamp our Spiritual Garden to turn it into a quiet contemplative space. I know we have many experts in our community. If you feel you could support the school either in the planning and design or the actual construction of a garden. Please get in touch with the Office.

Kind regards

A Ferguson  
Head Teacher

