

Bellfield Primary School

Newsletter

Friday 24th April 2020



Dear parents and carers.

A warm welcome and hello again from Mr Batty...

First of all I would just like to say that I am absolutely delighted to be re-joining Bellfield Primary as Executive Headteacher and working alongside Miss Howard as Head of School. The setup will be exactly the same as when I worked alongside Mr Mills. Miss Howard will be in daily charge of the school, leading the staff and children every step of the way and I will be there for guidance and support. When school reopens I will be in school two days per week working with the team to take Bellfield Primary further still. My other roles within HCAT will see me continue as Executive Headteacher of Longhill Primary and also supporting the leadership team at Withernsea Primary.

I'm sure you are with me in wishing Mr Mills the very best of luck in his new role as Headteacher of Dorchester Primary School. Mr Mills did an excellent job in his time at Bellfield Primary and will be missed. Obviously he would have liked to have left in better circumstances but we will make sure he gets the send off he deserves once school reopens.

I'd also like to wish Miss Howard the very best of luck in her new role as Head of School of Bellfield. One of the staff this week said that: 'if Miss Howard was a stick of rock then she'd have Bellfield Primary right the way through!' Miss Howard simply loves the place and her passion to see the children of Bellfield succeed will certainly drive the school further forward!

In the meantime, school staff are having regular video calls with each other to ensure that we are supporting our community as much as possible during this national emergency. Staff are also, where possible, planning for when the children return.

I really do look forward to seeing you all again when we finally reopen.

A new look newsletter...

We hope this newsletter finds you and you families safe and well in these worrying and uncertain times. This newsletter aims to keep you up to date with the latest national developments regarding COVID-19 and the impact this is having on your children. During school closures we will send a letter out fortnightly but please keep an eye on the school Twitter and Facebook pages for further information.

We are all really missing the children and all the staff are working really hard behind the scenes to make sure the children have what they need in these strange new times.

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When will school reopen?

A common question being asked by many people. This is almost impossible to say at this stage. One thing we would stress is please don't believe everything you see and hear in the media. Even this week there were reports that we would return to school in the next few weeks but, as of today, this is not the case. The health secretary Matt Hancock stated yesterday that many things have to be in place before children return to school and we are certainly not there yet.

How will the school reopen?

School leaders across the city are meeting regularly via video link to discuss how we will reopen schools safely. Obviously this is in the very early stages and we will follow government rules but it is unlikely that, in the short term, schools will simply reopen to all children and staff at the same time. There may well be a layered approach to this but we won't speculate too much at this time. In the meantime, staff are in constant contact with each other discussing how we will help and support children settle back into school life again in the most effective and sensitive way possible.

Supporting you and your children during closures

Our main goal since closing has been to support you and your families as much as we can during these difficult times. Staff have prepared lots of work for the children to do at home and we are working to improve this further by giving easier access to useful lessons and resources. More tips for home learning can be found within this letter.

What's happening in schools at the moment?

Whilst schools are closed to the majority of children, some of our children of key workers are currently at Longhill Primary which is home to a temporary hub with children attending from Bellfield, Westcott, and Wansbeck. This decision was taken to reduce the number of staff needed across the four schools and it is working well. Thank you again to all of you who have made arrangements to keep your children at home. This service strictly only for those parents who cannot arrange childcare whilst they are at work and we still need to keep numbers as low as possible.



Top tips for home learning

First things first, we really do understand that home isn't the same as school. Here are a few tips to help:

- Please don't feel pressured to turn your living room into a classroom and do what works for you. Some children prefer to sit and work for longer periods whereas other children prefer little and often.
- Routine – find your own routine and try to stick to it. Lots of children like to know what is happening and when. Set some times for work and times for play, try to keep these the same where possible.
- Real life learning – use opportunities to involve children in baking, cleaning, gardening and fixing things. One of the best ways children develop is by talking to them and discussing what's happening.
- Read read read – While we're all at home this is a perfect opportunity for the children to read. Reading is so important and is the key to being successful in life so whether it's a webpage, newspaper or favourite storybook please encourage your children to read and read to them. (You should have all received a link via your child's SeeSaw to register for a free account with Oxford Owl Reading)
- Use social media for ideas – there are lots of ideas around for home learning on social media, again, don't feel pressured to do them all but there are some really useful ideas to help children keep on learning in different ways.
- Ask for help – our staff are on hand to help. Please contact them if you feel unsure about what to do next or if something doesn't quite make sense.

Bellfield news...

This section of the newsletter will contain a selection of the things that some of our children have been up to during lockdown:

- Staff have loved watching the videos that children have sent of them dancing along to 'Reach for the Stars.' Miss Balmer will continue to add videos of short dance routines for children to enjoy learning at home. We would love to see how well your child does with these so please add them to our Twitter account.

Finally...

Please keep safe everybody and remember that we're here for you.

Stay safe and stay at home where possible!

Best wishes

Mr Batty and Miss Howard