

Bellfield Primary School

3rd February 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

THANK YOU. Your support as families has been invaluable, both for the children who are in school and at home. We have been thrilled with how hard children and families are working and cannot thank you enough for your continued support. Although this is not the start to the spring term that we anticipated, or wanted, we have all risen to the challenges in order for our community to stay safe and ensure our children continue to learn. Home learning is a challenge for everyone; children, parents and teachers, but the work that has been returned is AMAZING. Mr Johnson has indicated that some children and schools may be able to return shortly after the half term break but will as ever keep you informed of any new information we receive from the government and the Department for Education.

We are now carrying out twice-weekly lateral flow testing on staff within the school. This is an additional layer to our already robust risk assessment procedures. It means that if any member of staff is asymptomatic that it will be picked up quickly, and acted upon immediately.

Term dates	
Friday 12th February	Close for half term
Tuesday 23rd February	School reopens <i>Pupils who presently attend school will return</i> <i>Work will start to be uploaded to Seesaw for pupils working from home</i>
Thursday 25th March	Last day of term
Thursday 25th March	Easter Egg competition for Years 3/4/5 and 6 (please send to school on the morning) Easter Bonnet Parade for Nursery/Reception/Year 1/Year 2
Monday 12th April	School reopens for the summer term

Please continue to make every effort to follow government guidelines in order to keep us all safe. I hope that we will **ALL** be back together soon. In the interim, please keep in regular contact with your child's teacher, via Seesaw.

Zoom Check-ins

All classes will continue with their weekly whole class Zoom meetings. These will now focus on our 'jigsaw' personal, social and emotional lessons. The children will have an opportunity to see each other and keep connections open between home and school, so please make every effort to encourage your child to attend.

In addition to these sessions, all pupils will have a weekly-taught lesson with the teacher or teaching assistant. These sessions will focus on phonics (EYFS/KSI), Guided Reading and Maths. Again, please make every effort to join these, as the lessons are part of their sequence of learning and will support progress within these core subject areas. (New links will be sent to your via your seesaw app)



Quality Assurance of remote home learning

As a school, we are frequently inspected by our Academy Trust and Ofsted to ensure we are providing your children with the best quality education.

This half term, we were delighted to welcome our School Improvement Officer and CEO of the Trust along with a phone call from Ofsted to talk about home learning provision. These meetings were a great opportunity for the school to show off the fantastic work you are doing at home and in school.

Our academy trust were overwhelmed when walking around the school to see how settled, resilient and hardworking the pupils in school are. They praised the staff for their commitment to providing a calm and consistent school environment and particularly liked how we are showcasing work, on our displays, from children in school and at home. They also praised the staff for their dedication to providing quality education for pupils working from home. Staff are teaching full-time in school whilst providing the same daily learning to pupils at home, providing feedback to pupils and answering questions from pupils who are struggling with work at home. In some classes, the trust could see examples of additional learning videos, providing explanations for how to solve mathematical problems or answer phonic/guided reading questions. Our School Improvement Officer was delighted when looking at the quality of work being provided but he was even more impressed with the quality of the work pupils are producing at home and commended the school community for their support and hard work.

We also received a phone call from HMI Ofsted to talk through our home learning offer. This conversation was one of many quality assurance calls that Ofsted are making to schools. We welcomed the opportunity to talk about the amazing work that has been happening at home, and how our school community has risen to the enormous challenge that this has presented. The inspector was satisfied that the school is providing quality remote home learning, in line with DFE expectations, and is also provided above what is expected. Thank you. This reflects not only on the hard work of our staff but also on you as parents who are supporting the school in ensuring all children are continuing to learn and progress with their education.

Pupils in school

Just a reminder that children in school must be dressed in their full uniform, this includes the removal of any earrings. Pupils **MUST** have a school jumper or cardigan with them each day and we would encourage any children wearing skirts to wear tights. It is very cold and we still **have** to keep our windows slightly open to provide a through draft, to help stop the spread of germs.

Also, please remember that we continue to remain closed on a Friday afternoon for pupils. All pupils should be collected either at lunchtime or by 1pm. Thank you.

One World Week

We are delighted to be having another 'One World Week' to learn about and celebrate different cultures from around the world. Each year group will be looking at a different country and exploring their traditions, language, religion, food, tradition clothing and geographical features of the area being studied.



3rd February 2021

Pupils at home and school will be focusing on the same learning activities and we will continue to use some of the work from home to display on our remote learning boards in school.

Year	Country
FS1/FS2	Spain
Rainbow Room	America
Year 1	America
Year 2	Germany
Year 3	Portugal
Year 4	Turkey
Year 5	Morocco
Year 6	Sweden

Reminder of Covid procedures

We ask that you continue to follow government guidelines. It is vital that we work as a community to help keep everyone as safe as possible. Therefore, we would like to remind you how to help us keep our school community safe.

- 1) If anyone in your household has symptoms your child **MUST NOT** attend school – until a negative test is confirmed
- 2) If anyone in your household is waiting for a test your child **MUST NOT** attend school – until a negative test is confirmed
- 3) If you have been contacted by track and trace and told to isolate your family your child **MUST NOT** attend school
- 4) If you are isolating, due to track and trace or a member of the household having a positive test, you must isolate. If during this isolation period, your child or another member of the family develop symptoms, you must isolate for a further 10 days from the day after the start of symptoms. Your child **MUST NOT** attend school.
- 5) If your child has been in contact with anyone who has symptoms or has tested positive for Covid-19 then your child **MUST NOT** attend school

If you are in any doubt, please contact the school office who will be happy to help and **DO NOT** send your child, ask the school first. You can always bring your child later in the day if we advise that this is possible.

The time scales have now changed. The isolation period is now 10 days for everyone. (This means the person with symptoms or a confirmed positive test and anyone else living in your house). If you are concerned, please keep your child at home and ring the school office. They will advise you on what to do and when/if your child can come to school.

We understand this is a challenging time but please be assured that if we have any confirmed cases, you will be informed. We understand that sometimes things are posted on social media and this is not always accurate information. We will always inform you of any cases and what your child/ren need to do in order to keep safe.



3rd February 2021

PE

Just a reminder about PE for this next half term. Children will be asked to come in PE clothing for the full day that they have their lesson. Their PE kit needs to be their indoor clothing. Please see the recommended list below.

- 1) Black joggers/leggings for KS1 and KS2
- 2) White or yellow school PE t-shirt
- 3) Trainers (Year 5/6 only) *(Please consider if your child is able to fasten laces. If they are not able to fasten their own laces then please consider getting them some trainers that are Velcro/elastic pull on fastening)*

Children must still bring a normal coat to school with them to wear at break/lunchtime over their PE kit.

Year group	PE Day	PE Session
1	Monday	Dance
2	Monday	Dance
3	Thursday	Dance
4	Thursday	Dance
5	Tuesday	Badminton
6	Tuesday	Badminton

We are excited for this half term as Miss Balmer and our trainee teacher in Year 2, Miss Medcalf, will be recording their dance lessons for children at home and in Year 1/3 to follow as part of their PE learning sequence.

Safeguarding

Our lunchtime staff had noticed on more than one occasion the same vehicle drive slowly past the school gates and look onto the playground before driving away. The staff were vigilant and took the registration plate of the vehicle and this has been reported to our community police officer, Jackie Cressy. She has made some enquiries and will be making a home visit to the owner of the vehicle to investigate further. The community policing team have also been doing some drive by visits to ensure the safety of all children.

Remember, safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and vigilance is key. Our staff acted quickly and therefore the police will deal with this matter.

Staffing

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Clark was successful in an interview to join our Senior Leadership Team as Assistant Head with responsibility for Curriculum and Teaching and Learning. Mrs Clark has been valued member of the Bellfield Team for 10 years and has worked across all key stages, making her the ideal person to lead teaching and learning for the school. As part of Mrs Clark's interview, what stood out the most was her dedication to providing the highest quality learning for our whole school community. Well done Mrs Clark!

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3rd February 2021

We will be saying a sad 'farewell' to Miss Hunter at the end of this half term. Miss Hunter has decided to leave the school due to personal circumstances but would like to wish Year 5 the very best for the remainder of the year. We wish Miss Hunter the best for her future endeavours and know that the children in Year 5 will miss her.

A few reminders

If your child is not able to attend school or complete home learning due to illness, please ring the school office by 8.30am and leave a message to say your child's name, class and the reason they will not be attending/completing work. This is a government requirement; we need to know where your child is each day.

If you are struggling with using Seesaw or need some further ideas on how to organise working from home, please contact the school and ask to speak with our 'Remote Learning Leader' – Mrs Clark. Please remember that she may not be able to help you instantly as she may be teaching her class. (The best times to ring are 10.40am, 12pm and 3.20pm.)

Stay safe and thank you for your continued support.

Miss Howard