



Upper Beeding Primary School

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Head Teacher: Mrs R Linford

Monday 18th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are all safe and well. Please check our website for a video message to the children from all the staff.

As you are aware we are working towards putting in place appropriate safety measures to be able to welcome back children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 from the 2nd June as well as looking after vulnerable children and Key Worker children. I would like to thank all the families that completed the survey to indicate their intentions about children returning to school. **If you have not yet completed it, please do as soon as you can.** We will need to contact you if we do not hear from you. It is important we have a clear indication of how many children will be in school so we can safely organise the class bases and adult support. At any point you can change your mind about children coming in or not coming to school – we only ask that you let us know.

We would like nothing more than to have our vibrant, creative and happy school back together. As has been the case throughout, the timescales are not generous. From the Monday 11th May announcement we only had 10 school days until half term in which to effect the required changes - an ambitious target. We have to consider the options available to us in our setting before rushing to a decision that, otherwise, may be flawed. As of 14th May the Department for Education is still issuing updated guidance for us to consider and we know more is intended this week.

In my letter to you last week I indicated I would be sending out more detailed information. This will now be **at the end of this week** to allow Governors and staff to work through the detailed documents and guidance to be put in place. Some of the areas we are working towards will be creating small class bubbles for children, introducing staggered start and end times to the school day as well as staggered lunches. The children in Reception, Y1 and Y6 will probably not be in for a full week. We will also be continuing to provide weekly child care for vulnerable and Key Worker children, and manage home learning for children who are not in school. I fully understand that you would like more information and appreciate your patience, but I need to ensure that we have thought of every aspect so the children and staff are as safe as they can be at school.

SPORTS Virtual Competition

It is great to see some children, families and teachers taking part and logging their scores. We are placed 121 out of 278 schools – let's see if we can get higher next week! This week it is **GYM and FITNESS**. Please click on the link and have a look at: <https://www.activesussex.org/virtual/> This link gives you the activities to have a go at and where you can log your score. You can do this as many times as you want!

Home Learning and Half Term

We will be providing home learning this week and then it will be half term (wb 25.5.20). During the half term staff will not be setting work. This will provide some continuity to normal school term times.

There will be fresh work and new ideas on the VLE class pages for you to do with your children from Tuesday 2nd June. We also hope that this will give parents and children a break from home schooling and a chance for you to enjoy the predicted lovely weather!



We have loved seeing the children's fantastic learning from home and are tweeting when we can! Please follow us on <https://twitter.com/beedingprimary> Please keep sending their work in by post, taking a picture and sending via email, or via the VLE as we are showcasing work on our Twitter feed.

The feedback, contact and communication that flows both ways between home and teachers is highly valued by all involved and enables us all to feel connected.



Childcare

If at any point over these next two weeks your family circumstances change and you fall into one of the Key Worker categories where it is essential you have childcare, please communicate this information by emailing the School Office with the completed form that was sent out to all parents on Monday 11th May. If you are unable to send us an email, please telephone us on **01903 812288** to let us know when you can collect a form. Please leave a message if necessary.

It is really helpful for us to have this information as soon as possible so we can ensure we have enough staff in school to meet the needs of the children we have in our care and ensure we follow Covid-19 guidelines.

Thank you for everything so far. Your communication is much appreciated, as is your support. Please keep doing what you are doing, sharing your experiences, creating shared memories, and celebrating achievements. It means we will be all the stronger as we come through this together.

Best wishes and stay safe

Becky Linford
Headteacher

