



Upper Beeding Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs R Linford

Friday 24th April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

After our first week of the new virtual Summer Term, we have all had to adapt to new ways of working and I wanted to take the opportunity to say what an amazing job you are doing supporting your child's wellbeing and learning during this time.

It has definitely been a strange and challenging time and it is understandable if you and your child feel wobbly and worried at the moment. We are here for you every step of the way as we figure this all out together. If you do have any concerns about helping your child learn, or you need any other support from the school, please remember you can let us know either by messaging your class teacher on the VLE, emailing the School Office, or phoning the school. We will respond to you as soon as we can.

We miss the children very much but, as we must follow the Government's guidance to keep everyone in our community safe, we are carrying on remote learning through the VLE and offering childcare provision for vulnerable pupils and children of critical workers.



However, just because we are not all in the same building doesn't mean we can't have some fun together! Your children will have lots of activities they can get stuck into over the Summer term, so please keep a close eye on the VLE. It really is useful for your child to have logged in and seen the messages from their friends and teachers, and hopefully respond to them.

We also love seeing the children's fantastic learning at home. Please keep sending their work in by taking a picture and sending in via the VLE as we are showcasing work on our Twitter feed, or send via email to the school office, or even send in by post/hand delivery.



Virtual Sussex School Games

Active Sussex, in partnership with Specsavers, will be releasing a new sporting challenge every week for children to have a go at from the safety of their homes.

They can attempt the challenge as many times as they like and then need to head to <https://www.activesussex.org/virtual> to log their score. **There are school prizes and individual prizes for winners.** There are also adult challenges. Please register and challenge yourself – the whole family can get involved!

Home Learning

The VLE class pages have more home learning activities, ideas and links for your children.

- We hope that children will continue to access the learning materials regularly throughout the working week and complete tasks suggested over a period of time. These are being regularly updated and checked.
- Children can send work to their class teacher **electronically** if possible and we will be "tweeting" some of the work sent in.
- If you need to contact your class teacher or you need any help with the activities being set, please send them a message on the VLE or email the School Office. We will respond as soon as we can.
- **Can all children please send their class teacher a message on the VLE just so we know they are able to access the materials on the class page and that they are safe and well.**



Food Vouchers

We are currently sending electronic food vouchers for children in receipt of **FSM (Free School Meals)**. *This is not the same as children entitled to UIFSM (Universal Infant Free School Meals) in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.* If your family income has changed recently and you are now in receipt of certain benefits, you could be entitled to FSM and therefore eligible for food vouchers. Attached to this newsletter is an application form for FSM for you to complete and return should you feel you might be entitled. The completed form can be emailed to the address on the form or returned to the school office where we will process it on your behalf. If you have any queries regarding this, please feel free to speak confidentially to Mrs Gilliam in the school office or email her on admin@upperbeeding.w-sussex.sch.uk



Childcare

If at any point 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 Tuesday 14th April. 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.

Latest guidance from the Government regarding Covid-19 is:

1. Stay at home
2. Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (where this absolutely cannot be done from home)
3. Stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people
4. Wash your hands as soon as you get home

We can't say yet when we will be able to open the school fully, but rest assured that we will continue doing our utmost to keep your child's learning and our school community connected. Thank you again for your continued support in these coming weeks – stay safe and well.

Best wishes

Becky Linford
Headteacher

