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January 11th 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I will endeavour to keep this week's newsletter brief and to the point, I dare say there will continue to be further updates through the week again.

Firstly, as shared via Facebook on Friday, a superb achievement last week with 100% of Buzzards and Sparrowhawks accessing their online learning and 92% of Kestrels doing the same. This is a fantastic achievement from all of you, children, parents and staff.

Guidance Update – 'Parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can'

The Key Worker and Vulnerable Children guidance was updated again on Friday following the significant numbers of children attending schools across the country. We range between 27 and 34% of children attending which is higher than national averages (according to the National Association of Head Teachers survey).

The guidance now has the additional line **'Parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can.'**

There is clearly some confusion over this and I would expect to receive updated guidance soon. Heath Secretary, Matt Hancock, has been on various media outlets stating, "So for instance, if you are a key worker and your partner doesn't work you shouldn't be sending them to **school**, that's clear in the guidance."

With this being made clear, please ensure if you have any capacity to keep your children at home, please do so. Whilst we will always be available for the children of key workers and vulnerable children, we are also trying to limit contacts wherever possible in an effort to stop the spread of the virus. Please remember your children are safer at home with you than they ever can be with the multiple families we have attending school, simply by the fact you are reducing contacts. Hopefully we can all get on top of this and the short term pain will mean a faster return to normal.

Update to Google Classroom

Not wishing to rest on our laurels, the teaching team have been busy adding Mote to their laptops. Mote allows the teachers to provide verbal feedback to the children. It will appear in the Private Comments box and means the teachers will be able to give specific spoken feedback to your child. You do not need to download Mote to be able to play these comments. Hopefully this will provide a more personal feedback for the children.



Google Classroom tips

- We have added a couple of walk through guides and video to help you access Google Classroom – these can be found on the school website [here](#)
- Ensure you have signed out of any private accounts and are only signed in using your Bury account
- Sign in to Google Classroom through a web browser rather than the app (this is the case on a table, phone or any other device), the functionality is better and you should encounter less glitches
- Email the kestrels@bury.school, sparrowhawks@bury.school, or buzzards@bury.school addresses if you are encountering any issues (such as needing to locate your child's password)

Oak Academy tip

- Use Chrome to access the lessons

New Starters Reception 2021

With everything else going on in the world, please don't forget that if you are applying for a place for a child in Reception in September 2021, the deadline for applications is this Friday

Follow the link [here](#)

And finally, some more positive news to finish the newsletter. Miss Willett finished with us on Friday ready to start her maternity leave. Well, on Saturday baby Florence decided it was time to join the world! Congratulations. Mum and baby are both doing well.



Thank you for your continued support.

Thomas Moore,
Headteacher