



Headteacher: Mr T Moore, B.Ed (Hons) NPQH

www.bury.w-sussex.sch.uk

Email: office@bury.school

Tel: 01798 831502 Fax: 01798 831029

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back.

For some of you, today is the first day you have been into school since the middle of March and with that it will bring a mixture of excitement and nerves. We are of course aware of this and so will be responding to individual needs as they arise, as is no different to school as normal. Some things will be a little different, but I am sure everyone will very quickly get used to our new arrangements. Everyone did brilliantly this morning with all of the children settling down into school life very quickly. Thank you for keeping your distances outside and for the calm nature in which everyone approached school.

The mornings and collections will be trickiest part of the day, ensuring we are all doing our best to keep safe distances from each other and to make sure we are not loitering as other classes are entering/leaving. We are also aware there are a few families that will be waiting between collections for different classes, please ensure you have moved away from the entrance points to ensure that the children can easily get through. We know this is all a little different, and we will continue to monitor how it all works to ensure it is in the best interests of your children's safety. You all did this excellently this morning, thank you. Please do ensure you wait in a distanced space within the front of the school to avoid making the path outside of school impassable.

No matter what your own views may be on social distancing etc, please be aware that everyone has had a very different experience over the last few months and we have no way of knowing everyone's individual circumstances – it is therefore vital that we all do our best to give people space and to think of each other with regards to the impact of our own actions. As mentioned earlier, today has been an excellent start with this, thank you.

You will notice some changes to the outside of school with the cladding around the offices all redone and the 175th Anniversary mosaic now in pride of place on the hall wall. Please do have a look for your child's and your own tile if you get a chance, but again making sure you leave a safe space for each other. A huge thank you also to Mr Cowley who has spent time working with an electrician to fully wire up our outdoor classrooms. We now have lighting and power so that the rooms can be used year round and for all sorts of events (once we are in a position to run them again).



Updated Risk Assessment

Please ensure you have read the updated Risk Assessment sent out last Friday. There are changes as a result of updated guidance. E.g. the children are coming to school in PE kit on their PE days, not bringing in additional clothing. Letters from each class teacher will give you specifics on days of Bury Rangers and PE.

There will be regular updates as DfE guidance changes. You must ensure you read them for the safety of all our children and staff.

Changes over Summer

Proposed Partnership

As you were all made aware, the governing body and I continued to work throughout the summer and following several governing body meetings the decision was taken to not enter into a partnership with St James' and Amberley at this time. This was not an easy decision for the governors, and whilst we often think of the governing body as an entity, it is important to realise these are volunteers who give up their time for the school and have to make challenging decisions on an individual as well as collective level. I am aware that some parents raised issue with the fact that parents of St James' and Amberley were informed before the parents here at Bury. The governing body wanted to release this information at the same time, but unfortunately this was not agreed prior to the release. It is also important to note that Mrs Clark is not employed to work through the holidays, but, along with the governors, has given up her time to do so, so that you have all been kept informed.

Admissions

This time three years ago Bury admitted 0 pupils into Year R following a period of instability. This year we have been in the position of having to go to appeals such was the interest in gaining a place at the school. As a result of the appeals and a change in the internal use of room space, we have admitted 15 children into Year R this year as a one off 'bulge year'. Again this has involved additional work for Mrs Clark and myself, but in agreement with the diocese, we believe admitting the additional children is in the best interests of the children who have already had a very challenging year full of change.

The school will therefore be starting September with 62 children on roll, only 8 below the overall capacity of 70. This still means all children are in a class smaller than the national average and we have a staff structure meaning the majority of time there are two adults per class. As ever, a big thank you to all of you who make this school the special place that it is. With Covid as it is, we will clearly be unable to hold our annual open day in the same way as normal, so now more than ever we will be relying on word of mouth to introduce new families to the school. More information about how we will be showing parents around will be released in future, right now, our focus is on the making the return to school as safe as it can be for you all. It was particularly pleasing to be informed this morning that a recent Facebook post has been responded to so positively by current parents sharing their experiences of time at the school – thank you, this was excellent to read as we started the school year.



INSET Days

When the INSET days were planned this was with the intention of Monday being a collaborative day with St James' and Amberley. Obviously this changed following the decision to withdraw from the partnership, but has provided the staff team with an extra day to implement and prepare for the various changes and updates in the government's guidance. Our first INSET day was planned a long time before anyone had any real awareness of Covid. As part of our continuous School Improvement Plans we had identified foreign languages as an area that needed developing. Rather than simply picking a language and adding it to the curriculum, we have spent time researching the language that will have the most impact on the children's long-term learning, both in language acquisition and across other areas of the curriculum. Due to the children attending different secondary schools from Bury and with different Modern Foreign Languages taught in different schools, we did not want the potential of children spending time learning something that would then simply be repeated at secondary. Myself and Mrs Braun then attended some curriculum development training in January with the intention of exploring this further with an expert on curriculum development. All of the research and discussions led us to what may appear a rather unusual conclusion – Latin. The learning of Latin means that the children are being taught language acquisition and can then apply this process to a new language learned at secondary. The children here also spend time learning about the etymology of words (the origin) across all subjects, making links between new words as a result. With around 50 per cent of the English language stemming from Latin roots, there are rich opportunities for exploring etymology across many subject disciplines. For example, in science the term "vibrate" derives from the Latin "vibrare", which, of course, can help to clarify the meaning of the term "vibrato" in music. In English, when we read a description of a "vibrant city" we might then conjure up an image of a place pulsating with energy and life. We are not the only primary school that is teaching Latin in primary, there are several schools particularly in the North of England. I particularly like the advice from a school in Oldham "The ongoing study of Latin furnishes teachers with rich opportunities to revisit and embed learning about the Roman world over time. While there are obvious linguistic and cultural benefits to teaching Latin, the idea may initially sound a little highbrow and rarefied. If you are feeling at all hesitant perhaps bring to mind the Latin proverb "audentes fortuna iuvat" or more simply put, fortune favours the bold.

Staff news

Mrs Gammon is expecting her second child. She is due to go on maternity leave around the end of the autumn term. Mrs Braun has agreed to increase her hours to cover Mrs Gammon's maternity.

The news does not stop there; Miss Willett is expecting her second child early in the Spring term. An advert will be going out to look for a full time maternity cover in due course.



For the autumn term we are using the government's catch-up funding to employ Mrs Braun for some additional time. This allows us to target additional support for Yrs 2 - 6 using the staff who know your children's learning needs the best, their own teachers.

Lockdown Resources

Thank you for those of you that returned with Rapid Recall boards and reading books. Can you please return any outstanding Rapid Recall maths boards and any reading books by the end of this week so that we can disinfect/isolate them to ensure they are safe to redistribute and use.

Parents' Evenings

Lots of schools are discussing the issue around traditional parents' evenings at present. A lot of schools are making the decision to move to written reports with telephone consultations with the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator (SENDCo) as required. As we already provide a written report already as part of our parents' evening offer, this is the route we will take unless the guidance changes.

Birthdays

Children can wear their own clothes for the day (or a day either side of the holiday) when it is their birthday. Please do not send the children in with cakes or sweets to share – clearly this is not in-keeping with our Covid-19 Risk Assessment. In its place, we thought that instead of sweets it would be a good idea to buy a book for the school/class. The children then present the book to the school in assembly before placing it in our school library. If there was a message inscribed it would keep reminding the child of their birthday every time either they, or a friend, borrow the book. The link below is an Amazon wish list where the staff and children have selected some books that they would like for school.

[Birthday Book wish list](#)

Please don't feel constrained by the list, nor feel you have to get them through Amazon – locally we have great bookshops in Arundel and Petworth both of which have a very good selection of children's books. It is also great to receive a book chosen by your child because it is something they are particularly interested in.

Please do add your views to <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>. It is incredibly helpful to us for you to share the positives of what is going on at Bury CE Primary; if you have the time and would like to share the good work we are doing then please do add your feedback. Excerpt below taken from ParentView website.



Parent View gives you the chance to tell Ofsted what you think about your child's school, from the quality of teaching to dealing with bullying and poor behaviour. The survey can be completed at any time; you don't have to wait until the school is being inspected.

We will use the information you provide when making decisions about which schools to inspect and when.

Click 'Give your views' to register and complete a survey to help your child's school improve.

It is parents' responsibility to inform the school of any changes to consent to administer medicine.

It is parents' responsibility to keep us informed of changes to your personal data and where the school process personal data solely on the basis that you have consented to the processing, you have the right to withdraw that consent.

Diary Dates

I will try to give you as much notice as possible about forthcoming events at school. We will try not to change dates and times, but sometimes we do need to due to circumstances beyond our control. Unfortunately, a lot of what we had planned for this term is currently under review. As we are able to confirm additional things we will let you know.

Please keep checking these dates and times as I will update them every week. New dates added are in bold.

Thursday September 3rd	INSET
Friday September 4th	INSET
Monday September 7th	INSET
26 th October – 30 th October	Half Term
21 st December	Start of Christmas Holidays
Saturday 16th January 2021!	Bury Wassail 3 – 6pm Canceled
Monday January 4 th	INSET
Monday May 4 th	INSET

Thank you for your continued support.

Thomas Moore,
Headteacher