



Bussage C. of E. (Aided) Primary School
The Ridgeway, Bussage, Stroud, Glos.
GL6 8FW

Co-head Teachers: Mr. Andrew Ferguson,
Mrs Zoe White
Tel: 01453 883205
email: admin@bussage.gloucs.sch.uk



Friday 7th October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was delightful to see so many of you join us for our Harvest Service this week, the children are really enjoying being able to welcome their family members back into school. Thank you again for the foodbank donations, we will be delivering them to the foodbank over the next few days.

World Mental Health Day:

On Monday 10th October the children are invited to bring in a £1 donation and to wear GREEN or something GREEN for World Mental Health Day. We are fundraising for TIC+ (Teens in Crisis) who are an extremely valuable support service for mental health in children from age 8 Years upwards.

Solar Panel celebration:

Now that our solar panel project has been completed and we are generating our own electricity, we have received a visit from Bishop Robert and a film crew who came in to talk to members of our Charity and Eco Ministries about the thinking behind the installation of solar panels for our school and how we raised funds. The fantastic short film created by the Diocese is now available to view on our home page of our school website – do take a look as our children did us proud. This film is now being used as inspiration to other schools throughout the Gloucestershire Diocese.

Open afternoon and morning:

Do you have children who are preschool or know of others in the locality who do? Do you know of any families in the locality looking to transfer their Y1, Y2 or Y3 child to Bussage – the only classes we have spaces in - then please tell them all about our open afternoon and morning where they are invited to come in and see our school in working operation. We are holding an open afternoon for prospective parents on Monday 17th October at 1:30pm and an open morning on Wednesday 19th October at 9:30 am.

Parent Consultation Evenings:

You will have the opportunity to book to speak to your child's teacher on either Tuesday 18th or Wednesday 19th October. This will be an opportunity for you to find out how your child has settled into their new class and to have a look at their books. The meetings will be held in the school hall. With the ever-increasing costs to schools we are no longer buying in to the online booking service that was previously used, instead we will set up online bookings through teachers2parents. In order to secure your appointments with teachers a link will be sent to you via e mail or text. Once you have logged in with your child's name you will be able to book an appointment to suit you on one of the two evenings available. We will notify you once the booking system has been set up towards the start of next week.

Feedback and marking policy:

We are currently developing the way in which feedback and marking is given to our pupils. Due to this, when you look in the children's books at Parent Consultation Evenings, you may notice fewer long comments written by teaching staff. We are now making more use of instant self-marking by the children where appropriate, as well as



constant verbal feedback throughout teaching sessions to which the children edit and improve their work. This is a recent development and the updated Feedback and marking policy will be able to be viewed on the school website once our review period is completed.

Your school needs you!

Do you have PR/journalism/social media experience and could spare a few hours a year to help publicise all the great things that happen at Bussage School? We aren't offering to pay for this role but you would be 'doing your bit!'. If you are interested, and would like to know more, please contact Debbie Bird through the school office. Debbie is a school Governor and chair of the communications committee.

Parking:

We have received several complaints from local residents about inconsiderate parking that is occurring on a regular basis, in particular in the Stonecote Ridge area. PLEASE park responsibly if you are driving your child to school. We are in the fortunate position that many families choose to walk their children to and from school, however for those that drive please do not block resident's driveways or abandon vehicles where they make driving through the street difficult. The inconsiderate parking has caused people to miss vital health appointments as they were unable to exit their own drive. As you can imagine, this is very frustrating for people who live near school.

Vacancies:

Caretaker: We are still looking to recruit a new caretaker. If anyone is interested in finding out about the role, please contact the school office for an information pack and application form.

Midday Supervisor: A letter was sent out via teachers2parents about a vacancy for midday supervisor which we are looking to fill as soon as possible. Please contact the school office for any further information and an application form if you are interested in applying for this post.

Parent Governor: We had two vacancies for Parent Governor, one of which has now been filled. We are delighted to welcome Mr Steve Pobjoy to our School Governance team as he was elected unopposed. We are still in need of one more Parent Governor. Parent governors are elected by and from the parents of children currently attending our school. They serve a four-year term of office and bring a very important and valued perspective to the work of the governing board.

You might like to look at the information for prospective governors on the Gloucestershire County Council website www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schoolsnet/governors. Further information on the role can also be obtained through the school office.

The governing board has a vital role to play in making sure every child receives the best possible education. This is achieved by ensuring that governors have the necessary skills and commitment to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school. The particular skills that governing boards need will vary and will include personal qualities and capabilities, such as the capacity and willingness to learn and work as part of a team. It is expected that governors will make use of the various training opportunities available to them and play a full part in the work of the governing board.

If you are interested in becoming a governor, contact the school office with your nomination (self-nomination is acceptable), which will need to be with the school by 12.00 noon **Thursday 13th October**.

Dick Whittington Pantomime 6.1.23:

We are just waiting for a few families to return their child's pantomime form and repeat letters have been sent home. If we do not receive forms back by Monday 10th October, we will have to assume that those families do not wish for their child to attend the performance. Please can I remind all that the £7.50 ticket charge will need to be paid by October 20th, but ideally before that, as we are making payment to the theatre on that day. Thank you to all of those who have already made payment.

Please also be reminded that we are not able to fund children for this visit therefore if payment is not received by 9am on 20.10.22 we will release the reserved tickets back to The Everyman Theatre as we can only order tickets for those who have made payment. We will be requesting for offers of parent help for this visit at a later date however

we kindly request that any parents accompanying the visit are happy to pay for a ticket at a cost of £12.50 as unfortunately we do not have any free adult places this time.

PTA:

The PTA are currently planning the Christmas Fair event which will be held on Friday 25th November – they are always welcoming of and appreciative of volunteers who would like to get involved. Please contact the Chair of the PTA if you would like to volunteer – perhaps there are some parents from our new Rainbows class who are keen to lend a hand but haven't had the opportunity to do so yet.

The PTA quiz is happening on 15th October – there are lots of interesting teams signed up already! We are looking forward to finding out who is victorious this year (the school staff team is keen to regain their winning status from a few years ago so the competition is on!)

There is also a PTA meeting being held in the school hall on Wednesday 19th October at 8pm – all are welcome.

Have a super weekend.

Kind Regards,



Mr A Ferguson & Mrs Z White

Dates for your diary:

- **Monday 10th October Wear something GREEN for World Mental Health Day donate £1**
- Saturday 15th October: Quiz Night
- **Monday 17th October 1:30pm Open Afternoon for parents of children looking at school places**
- Tuesday 18th October School Photos
- Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th October Parent consultation evenings
- **Wednesday 19th October 9:30am Open morning for parents of children looking at school places**
- Half Term Monday 24th October - Friday 28th October
- **Tuesday 22nd November – Non-uniform day for chocolate tombola donation for PTA Xmas Fair**
- Friday 25th November: Christmas Fair
- Monday 5th December 6pm Community Carols
- Tuesday 6th December KS1 dress rehearsal
- Wednesday 7th December afternoon performance KS1 Nativity
- Thursday 8th December Evening performance KS1 Nativity
- Tuesday 13th December 6pm KS2 Carol Service 6pm
- Wednesday 14th December KS2 Carol Service 6pm
- Wednesday 14th December Xmas jumper and Xmas dinner day
- Friday 16th December Last day of term – school closes at 1:30pm

- Sunday 7th May: National Festival Circus (save the date, more info to follow!)