



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

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Friday 9th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

A warm welcome to all new parents and welcome back to all of our existing ones. It was so lovely to see all of the children's smiling faces as they returned for their first day on Tuesday. The first day of term is always so exciting, catching up with friends, the anticipation of being in a new class and the wonderful feeling of community and togetherness that is so special at Bussage C of E Primary. We are looking forward to another year of exciting learning, building on the knowledge the children gained last year. For us it is also an exciting and new adventure as we embark upon our first year as Co-Heads.

I am sure that we are all feeling great sadness today after receiving the news of the death of Queen Elizabeth. Please be assured that we spent some time reflecting on this occasion with the children during our Collective Worship today. The staff and Governors of our school extend our prayers to the whole school community in these upsetting times.

There is rather a lot of information to share on today's letter so forgive its lengthy nature.

Solar panels:

As we are sure you will have noticed, the solar panels have arrived and been installed over the summer break. Again, we would like to thank you all for making this possible with your fund-raising donations. Sustainability is one of our key drivers at Bussage and we are proud to be able to support our planet by creating energy from the sun. We will be receiving a visit from the Bishop of Tewkesbury later this month regarding our Eco focus and the recent installation.

Values:

Our Christian Value for this term is Generosity and we will also be looking at courage through our Collective worship. There are parent information sheets about our main value of Generosity available from our school website in the School Values tab.

Curriculum:

By the end of the week you will have received letters from your child's teacher alongside a theme web to show what their learning journey will be this term. The children are embarking on another set of exciting themes of learning which no doubt they will tell you all about as the term progresses. Keep an eye on the class blogs on the website too as they will be updated periodically.

Reading:

We hope that your child had great fun working on Bailey's Reading Challenge this Summer, perhaps they also did the Gadgeteers Reading challenge at the local libraries? The school staff have all been discussing their summer reads and have continue their love for reading too! Please can all of the reading books that were sent home in the Summer Term be returned as soon as possible but by Monday at the latest please as class teachers need them to be able to send home with their new pupils. If your child completed Bailey's Reading Challenge, please ask them to hand it in to their class teacher with their name and class clearly marked on it.



Odd jobs!

At Bussage we are regularly in need of small jobs being done around the school premises, e.g. shelves putting up, display boards being reattached etc. Are you someone that does that for a living or perhaps you know someone who does and could forward us a contact?

We would be grateful to hear of anyone who could be contacted for these ad hoc jobs as we have struggled to find anyone since our previous person retired. Thanks in advance.

Health and safety:

We are continuing to promote hand cleanliness in school following the protocols set up during the pandemic, and with this in mind we ask that children continue to wash their hands at the outdoor sinks before entering the school building in the morning each day.

Absence:

If your child is absent, you must inform the school office by 9:30 am that day. The safety of your child is paramount to us, therefore if we are not notified of their absence and cannot contact you, members of staff will have no choice but to visit your house to ascertain their whereabouts and, in extremes, the police will have to be notified.

Wet weather:

With our changeable weather, especially at the moment, please ensure that your child comes to school with an appropriate coat. Please also remember to send in named wellies so that the grass can continue to be used at break and lunch in wet weather.

Uniform:

With times becoming more and more uncertain regarding the onset of ever rising fuel costs, it has become essential now more than ever, that school uniform costs are kept to a minimum. We have a thriving second hand uniform collection run by our fantastic PTA. Please get in touch with them for any uniform needs. Please do come and talk to us if you are experiencing difficulty with uniform costs as we will do our best to support you.

Phones:

Children should not bring mobile phones in to school please, there have been an increasing amount in recent months. If your child must have their phone in school due to their arrangements after school, please write to admin to state this. The phone will need to be handed in to the school office for duration of your child's time in school that day.

School Business Manager:

Mrs Cox has left the employment of Bussage Primary School. We are in the process of appointing a new School Business Manager and in the meantime, we are delighted that Mrs Papps has agreed to support us during this period.

PTA update and news from Chairperson, Jenny Reeves:

The PTA have hit the ground running this term and it's not long until bear hunt weekend! **Friday 16th September** is Bring a Bear to school day (£1 either cash to school or via sum up shop; <https://bussage-primary-school-pta.sumup.link/>). The bear hunt itself is **Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th September** 1-4pm, this is our biggest fundraiser event of the year and we need lots of helpers on the day to make it happen. If you can spare some time to help run a stall please sign up <https://signup.com/go/kDBRJpo>

We have some great prizes in The Bear Hunt Raffle, tickets should be coming home this week. If you could please return money/stubs and any unsold tickets to the office by Friday 16th September. Top prizes include family ticket for Giffords Circus, Family tubing experience, family photoshoot, Fat Toni's voucher and many more! If you are able to make some donations so we could run some of the stalls we would be very grateful, we need donations for the cake stall (baked or bought!), win a teddy (any unloved soft toys at home!) and bottle tombola (any bottles would be great - booze, showergel, fruit shoots etc!). This is a lot to ask for at the start of the year, and we truly appreciate anything that you can give to help us with this event.

Dates for your diary:

- Tuesday 13th September Nasal Vaccination team in
 - Friday 16th September: Bring a bear to school day (£1)
 - September 17th & 18th Bear Hunt Weekend
 - Wednesday 5th October Harvest Service
 - Saturday 15th October: Quiz Night
 - Tuesday 18th October School Photos
 - Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th October Parent consultation evenings
 - Half Term Monday 24th October - Friday 28th October
 - 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
 - Wednesday 14th December KS2 Carol Service
 - Wednesday 14th December Xmas jumper and Xmas dinner day
 - Friday 16th December Last day of term
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- Sunday 7th May: National Festival Circus (save the date, more info to follow!)

School Prayer:

If your child is new to Bussage C of E Primary School, here is our school prayer which you may wish to help them to learn. We say it often in school during Collective Worship.

Dear God,

This is our school, let peace dwell here,

Let the room be full of contentment, let love abide here:

Love of one another, love of mankind,

Love of life itself and love of God.

Let us remember that as many hands build a house,

So many hearts make a school.

Amen

We hope you all have a restful weekend after a busy first week back.

Kind Regards,



Mr A Ferguson & Mrs Z White