



Dear Parents,

It's been terrific to welcome everyone back this week.

Thanks for following the guidance. Everyone has responded extremely well to the new situation and the first week has run smoothly.

We really don't know what this year will hold, there are many uncertainties, but if we work together we will make sure the children have the best year possible.

It's been great to welcome our new Pre-School children this week and the new children who have joined us in Reception and Y1. I am sure they will settle quickly and will have already started making new friends.

We have also welcomed a new teacher to the Upper School. Miss Renyard has taken up the new teaching position within Y4. She's quickly getting to grips with the building and the new routine, as are we all.

As usual over the summer break we have made some improvement to our facilities. We needed to reclaim a classroom in the Upper School to accommodate the additional class to Y4. We've also had a new cloakroom area created just outside that classroom, helping to further reduce the congestion in the porches. The top corridor in the Upper School, where 3M, 5M, 56T and 4R are, now has a new floor covering and all of those classrooms have been re-carpeted too. In addition to this the Y5 and Y6 toilets have been refurbished. Normally we would have asked last year's Y5 children to choose the colour scheme but as they were not in school Y6 did this for us and they've made a great job of it I think. We'll now research possible transfer pictures for both areas to finish them off. The whole area looks very smart.

In the Lower School we've reorganised the Lower School library so that it is an even better space to use. We have also commissioned the mosaic artist, Sue Warlock, to create some artwork linked to our curriculum which will go up in the Y1/Y2 porch area. It will feature some of the main elements of the KS1 curriculum and we've booked her in for two days (30<sup>th</sup> Sept. and 1<sup>st</sup> October) to work with small groups of children to help to create these. I know the children love taking part in this and I am sure the finished product will be very striking.

We are having to work differently this year in many ways. We are still working through the 'Dates for your Diary' for this year deciding what we can do and what won't be possible. As you know, we like to give you these dates at the start of the year so that you can plan for the year. As soon as we have them confirmed we will share them with you.

What we do know is that Y3 and Y4 children would normally be going swimming but there is no plan to resume this yet. However, woodwind and guitar lessons, for those children accessing these group lessons, will resume shortly.

Please read on for more information regarding our return to school. Sadly we are not able to welcome you in to school but if you have any questions or compliments, please do not hesitate to contact us by phone or email. The Year group teachers will be using the year group email addresses, as used during lockdown. They will be checked with some frequency so please use those to contact the teachers directly.

(Year group email addresses are as follows: [preschool@tanfieldleapprimary.co.uk](mailto:preschool@tanfieldleapprimary.co.uk), [reception@tanfieldleapprimary.co.uk](mailto:reception@tanfieldleapprimary.co.uk), [year1@tanfieldleapprimary.co.uk](mailto:year1@tanfieldleapprimary.co.uk), [year2@tanfieldleapprimary.co.uk](mailto:year2@tanfieldleapprimary.co.uk) and so on)

Many thanks.

Kay Hemmings (Head Teacher)

## Communication with parents

Over the lockdown period being able to communicate with you via email through Schoolcomms was crucial and worked extremely well. We will continue to use this medium to send you updates such as newsletters and any other information we wish to share with you. This will reduce excessive use of paper, helping the environment, and it will be beneficial in reducing any possible contamination in respect of the virus.

It's therefore essential that if you change your email address you inform us immediately.

## Payments

We need to be mindful of any possible transference of germs. With this in mind we are going to go virtually cashless. The only time we will accept cash currently will be for Non-School Uniform Days, Childcare before school and Charity Days.

This means that you have to have the Schoolcomms App to make any payment to us – dinner money, educational visits, residential visits etc.



The vast majority of you already have the App but if you've not attempted to download this yet, please do so as soon as possible.

You can do this through the following links, thank you. If you have any trouble downloading it, please contact the office – it may be the case that we've recorded some details incorrectly.

**Apple iPhone :** [schoolgateway.co.uk/iosdownload](https://schoolgateway.co.uk/iosdownload)

**Android phone:** [schoolgateway.co.uk/androiddownload](https://schoolgateway.co.uk/androiddownload)

## School Website

During the lockdown period our staff worked on our school curriculum. We have now uploaded the majority of our curriculum documents. You can click on the 'Curriculum' tab to read about the intentions of our curriculum and can then read about our intentions for each curriculum area, as well as follow the plans for each subject. Our Subject Leaders all chose a quote from a famous person, celebrating their subject. We've had these made into signs to promote these around school and hope they will inspire our children - the future generation.

The website is home to a lot of information about our school and you can find the current newsletters on there as well as any letters that we send out. Please explore the site to find out what it offers.

## A Message from our Parent Support Advisor

As we welcome children back to school certain measures have been put in place to keep school "socially distant". For the moment I am not able to welcome parents inside school or visit you inside your home. However, I would like to reassure you that I am still working & available to offer parent/cares & children support & advice.

I will continue to support children in school if required following school procedures on social distancing.

I am able to offer parents/carers appointments by:

- Telephone or email, please use the details below.
- Contacting the school office by telephone or email & I will contact you.
- Video call using Whatsapp
- Face to face appointments by prior arrangement only & if absolutely necessary. This may take a little time to arrange so please be patient.

I may visit your home but will not enter your property as per government guidelines around social distancing.

I understand that we are in very strange times so please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions, queries, worries or concerns that you might have for yourself or your child/ren.

Lynn Bell

Mob: 07824460486

Email: [l.bell104@brandonprimaryschool.co.uk](mailto:l.bell104@brandonprimaryschool.co.uk)

## After School Clubs

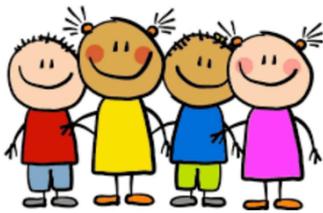
Currently we are only offering Spanish as an After-School Club. This has been offered to Y3, Y4 and Y5 children, starting next Wednesday. Letters have been sent out to those children who expressed an interest. Once we settle into a new routine and assess our capacity, we hope to be able to offer more.

## School Photographer

The photographer will be coming into school this half term to take both individual photos and class photographs. Unfortunately we can't offer family photographs this year.

Individual photographs will be taken on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September and class photographs on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October.

**Flu Immunisation** – the NHS will be carrying out this immunisation in November. This is even more important than ever. It is highly recommended that your child has this. It is given through a nasal spray so is simple and takes seconds. To ensure your child has this you **MUST** register them. As soon as we receive more information I will email this to you.



## Attendance

**Good attendance is crucial to good progress and also has a positive impact on well-being.**

As a school we promote this with the children at every opportunity. In previous years class attendance was discussed and celebrated every Friday during assembly. We also did a random draw for all the children who had 100% attendance that week – the children received a small prize and a photo of the winners was tweeted.

Sadly we can't have assemblies like this at the moment. We are exploring alternative ways of doing this but we will continue to celebrate attendance every week.

In addition to the weekly rewards, every term a badge will be given to all children who have achieved 100% and a sticker will be awarded to those who have 98% attendance and above. At the end of the year any children who have 100% attendance for the whole year will be awarded a small trophy to recognise this achievement.

(We do not do any of this with Pre-School children as we feel they are too young to understand.)

We constantly monitor attendance. If a child's attendance becomes a concern then a text or letter, expressing this concern, will be sent home informing parents of this. If it goes below 90% then further communication is made with parents expressing this concern and setting targets for improvement. If absence persists then the case is referred to the Local Authority and a planning meeting is held with parents. Leave of Absence can significantly impact on a child's overall attendance and will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. The National Assessment period is in May (and Phonics Tests for Y1 and for some Y2 is in June) – **requests for these times must be avoided.**

Please do all you can to ensure that your child is a good attender – it's good for them now and will develop a good work ethic for life.

We do appreciate that things are slightly different this year. In previous years when a child would present as feeling a little unwell, we'd encourage them to carry on to the end of the day. Given the current situation, if a child presents as unwell and has any symptoms of the coronavirus then we will be isolating the child and requesting that parents come to collect them as soon as possible and they ring 111 to seek advice, which might involve going for a test.

This applies to the family too. If anyone has symptoms within the family home then advice should be sought from 111 and if a test is recommended, all of the family should isolate until the result is received.

Testing will be the key. This is going to be crucial to help to keep everyone in our school community safe. If you can please keep us informed throughout. Once a test result is received, we will ask parents to email this to the school before the child/ren return to school.



## Gifts for staff

Thanks to all who expressed their thanks to staff through emails and cards sent last year; your comments were greatly appreciated.

I'd just like to remind you at the start of another year that, as a staff, we do request that if you would like to express your thanks then you do not have to buy a gift – instead a card, note or brief comment to us would be an excellent alternative and mean just as much to us, if not more.

*"Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless." - Mother Teresa*



## Parental Engagement

Last year we had planned for all year groups to have a session when parents come in and get involved in the curriculum. From Pre-School and Reception Stay and Play days to Y5/6 Bridge Building, these were all planned in. Sadly, due to the current situation we can't have these at the moment and I suspect it won't be possible for the whole year. As soon as this changes we'll plan to offer them again.

We would also normally have held a 'Meet the Teacher' session in July for all parents. This is the opportunity for parents to learn more about the key things for each year group. As we can't hold this type of meeting we are going to share the information via the website. This will be pertinent to each year group. Once our teachers have prepared these and they are on website I will let you know.

## P.E.

Children will be doing P.E. as usual however we are requesting different things for different year groups.

Y5 and Y6 will come to school dressed in the P.E. kit on their P.E. day. 56T and 6P are every Monday and 5M is every Thursday starting next week.

Y3 and Y4 will get changed for P.E. as usual.

Y1 and Y2 will not get changed for P.E. for the first half term due to time being tight in the afternoon. We'd just like to ensure that the children all have a change of shoes for P.E. – plimsolls or trainers. If you can make sure they have a pair in the P.E. bag from Monday that would be appreciated.

Reception and Pre-School will not be getting changed for P.E.

## Breakfast Club

Finally, thanks to all who responded to the Breakfast Club Survey. This survey has now closed.

Those who expressed interest in this provision will receive an email over the weekend explaining exactly how this will work and they will be able to access it.

For those parents who have not responded to the survey, it will no longer be possible to access this provision unless you have registered first. If in the future you may need this, please contact the school for a registration form.

I hope you have found the information in this newsletter informative and useful. I'll be in touch soon with some dates for your diary and further updates. Thank you.