

# Newsletter April 2020



**Bradfield C of E (Aided) Primary School**

2 April 2020

Dear Parents and carers,

Spring has apparently sprung! The sharp, bright, frosty mornings are a reminder that better times are on their way and we certainly need that positive message at the moment.

The news is dominated by the sad news of lockdown, suffering, infection and the loss of loved ones but I have also noticed stories of courage, compassion, resilience and even joy in between the negative headlines. Like the daffodils on the roadside and the buds emerging on the trees, these stories give us a respite from the harshness of the world. I have seen and heard stories of great courage from critical workers who put their health on the line every day to ensure we stay well and stories of those showing immense compassion for others, doing the shopping for strangers, phoning the isolated and simply staying home when it is so difficult to do. There has also been great Joy in a number of year 6 households as Mrs Dennis's April Fool caught out many children, sending them off into the garden to howl at the sky or hunt for ants early in the morning, all thanks to a wicked reading comprehension! We are all playing our part.

We are still in the season of Lent and I hope and pray that these weeks of lockdown will end in the same sense of hope, joy and triumph as the Easter story.

As you know, school remains closed and we will be on Easter break until April 20<sup>th</sup>, teachers will be providing ideas for activities for the children over these 2 weeks. Should you require emergency childcare as critical workers please contact the school office through email. We have alternative provision arrangements with another school.

There are a couple of announcements to be made as we come to the end of the term.

Firstly, a reminder that Miss Russell will be leaving Bradfield at the end of this Spring Term, which is the end of this week. With the social distancing measures which are necessarily in place at the moment, we are not able to give her the very personal and heartfelt goodbye which we would normally do.

Miss Russell has been at Bradfield for 6 years and during that time will have taught many of your children in a number of different classes. She has touched the lives of many of you and helped to shape the futures of your children. I know that she will be sorely missed but she has promised not to be a stranger and I hope that the relationships she has built with staff here will last into the future. I know that you will join me and the rest of the staff in wishing her a fond farewell and the best of luck in her new venture.

We welcome Mrs Lynsey Nortcliffe to our staff after Easter. Mrs Nortcliffe will be taking over the reins in Oak class at a very strange time and we can only hope that she actually manages to meet the children at some time! Activities and communication will continue through Tapestry for Oak class families and I know that Mrs Nortcliffe is looking forward to hearing from you and telling you a little about herself over the coming weeks.

**For details about events, latest news etc please visit <https://www.bradfieldceprimary.co.uk>**

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On a separate note, it is with great sadness that I also have to announce the departure of Mrs Coulam at the end of the academic year. Mrs Coulam has asked me to inform you of this at this time due to the school closure and the uncertainty surrounding the date of our return to school. As many of you will be aware, outside of school Mrs Coulam has experienced a difficult 12 months and she has decided to take a break from teaching to concentrate on her family and herself. Whilst we will miss her greatly, we understand that it is necessary for us all to take time to ensure our own wellbeing. At this present time we are realising more than ever what is important to us. Mrs Coulam will continue to be the class teacher for year 4 until the end of the academic year and will be communicating with parents and children in the usual ways during the school closure and hopefully welcoming your children back into school before the end of the Summer Term. We will ensure that she has a proper send-off either at the end of the Summer term or as soon after as possible.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Coulam for her hard work and dedication to Bradfield school over the past years, at least 18 we think! She has been a pleasure to work with and I know how much she has put into caring for and supporting the children at our school. We all wish her the very best and look forward to hearing how she manages to fill her time without us! We are not saying "Goodbye", rather "Adieu!"

Announcements about future appointments will be made after the Easter break.

I would like to thank my incredible staff for their continued hard work, good humour and sense of community during this time. We may not be physically together but we are certainly not apart, the virtual staff meetings are a source of great support and focus for us all. Particular mention should go to Mrs Aslett who keeps us all informed by juggling communications from a huge range of sources; sifting, collating and sharing what is needed. Thank you Sue!

As always, I wish you all well and hope that you remain safe and healthy.

Best wishes,

Caroline Johnson  
Headteacher  
Bradfield CE (VA) Primary School

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And our **Facebook Page** at [www.facebook.com/bradfieldceprimary](https://www.facebook.com/bradfieldceprimary).

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