



Bradfield C of E (Aided) Primary School

4 May 2020

Dear parents and carers,

It seems incredible that we are already into May and the weather seems to agree, turning from glorious hot, sunny days to wet and stormy ones.

At this time of the year we would normally be enjoying lunchtimes on the field and outdoor story times but sadly that is not the case this year. I do know however, that a lot of you are making the most of any dry weather to get outside yourselves and enjoying daily walks with the family or learning outside with the tasks set by the teachers.

It has been lovely to see so many photos on the website of all the activities and work that is going on in the community. The children have definitely embraced their creative side with pictures, baking and building featuring prominently. We love to receive all your news and to see the children we all miss so much even if it is through the lens of a camera. We are working on providing the children with story time videos through a YouTube channel and your teachers will send you the details once the technology is up and running reliably.

A big THANK YOU to you all for continuing to engage with the learning of your children in whatever form you can. Remember, what works for some may not work for you and there is no right way for you to be managing at this time. Just by staying home we are helping this crisis to pass.

At the moment we are no closer to receiving details of when schools will reopen and it seems unlikely that this will be the case until after the May half term. Even then, the information we are getting seems to suggest that this will not involve full opening but the details are not as yet clear. Once guidance has been issued by the government and the local authority I will, of course, let you know our plans.

Just a few notes for you this week.

Fantastic Work!

Some of our children have been using this time to raise funds for great national and local causes. So here is a SHOUT OUT to...

- Archie C, who has had his hair cut off to raise money for the Royal Berkshire Hospital
- Thomas H and his brother William, who have walked to the moon to raise money for Children in Need
- James McManus, who is doing a sponsored run to raise funds for the NHS

Amazing examples of Compassion from these children. I am sure that many others are doing what they can in other ways to support the NHS and vital services and charities. Let us know so we can give you a shout out in the newsletter!

Emailing teachers

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

I understand how difficult it is for the children to be out of touch with their teachers at the moment and we hope that this doesn't go on for too much longer. Some children have their own email addresses and are using these to contact teachers. That is fine but please note that teachers will reply to the parent email as well as the child's to ensure complete transparency over these communications. I am sure that you can understand our need to be cautious and to safeguard not only the children but our staff.

Online safety and behavior

Again I realise how difficult it is for us all to be so remote from our friends and families. Some children are using social media and gaming platforms to communicate with each other. Please make sure that you are monitoring these forms of chat and that you have checked your privacy settings, as we know many chatrooms are not closely monitored and nor are private WhatsApp, Instagram and other social media groups.

Encourage your children to THINK BEFORE YOU POST; the BBC Own It app is a good way to help children to be conscious of their online behaviours. Check it out here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/49738921>

The NSPCC provide excellent guidance on keeping children safe online:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Eligibility for Pupil Premium Funding and Free School Meals

Unfortunately, the current lockdown measures have meant that many people are not able to work and may not be receiving any income, having to apply for benefits to help them through this time. If this is the case for you please check if your children are now eligible for Free School Meals. At the moment, those children who are eligible are receiving additional financial support in place of the free school meals in the form of a voucher to be used at a number of supermarkets.

If your circumstances have changed during the current situation and you feel you might now be eligible for Free School Meals for your child/ren please apply by visiting this site <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals>

Places for September 2020

We are delighted to have more than 20 children due to join us in Reception in September and we look forward to meeting them all hopefully before then. Please note that we do still have spaces in this class so if you know anyone who perhaps is not happy with their allocated school, let them know and ask them to get in touch with the school office. We would be delighted to talk to them about all the wonderful things our school can offer.

And finally, when I can't seem to see my way out of this and I am feeling unsure of the future I try to find the joy in each day and live up to this....

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



Yesterday is **gone**. Tomorrow has
not yet come. We have only **today**.

- Mother Teresa

With my very best wishes

Caroline Johnson