

Brunstane Primary School



Acting Head Teacher: Chris McMillan

Friday 21st August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am very happy to write to you all after an incredibly positive first full week back at Brunstane Primary School! After a challenging period for everyone during school closure and a very unusual summer holiday, we are delighted to be back working with our pupils again and catching up with all that has gone on since March.

We know that this has been a difficult time for many of our families and that return to school under these unusual circumstances has been a worry for some of our pupils. I am therefore extremely grateful to all of our children and families for the fantastic levels of support and patience being shown when dealing with the new routines and structures we have put into place to ensure safety in the current climate. The children have, as always, been incredible in their enthusiasm, positivity and resilience since our return. We are also extremely grateful to all our families for following our pick up and drop off routines so well. The result has been a very calm and positive atmosphere around the school and I would like to thank the whole Brunstane community for contributing towards this.

Additional Safety Measures

Parents and carers will now be quite familiar with our pick up and drop off routines and again I would like to thank all involved for your patience and support as we implemented these over the first weeks of term. Thank you for maintaining social distancing at all times and taking your time when leaving the campus. This is critical as the greatest risk to community health is through adult to adult contact.

Please can I remind P5-7 pupils to please enter and exit through the back gate on the north east of the campus. Please can we also ask that P1/2 and P2 parents wait on the grass outside the infant playground fence when the ground is dry so that we have the most room possible for social distancing. This is critical so that

As well as our new drop off and pick up routines, other additional safety measures include:

- Increased hand washing
- Hand sanitiser points throughout the school
- Staggered break and lunch times
- Individual areas for class lunches
- Reduced movement around school building
- Individual pupil resource sets
- Reduced direct contact with outside organisations
- Strict observation of pupil illness and participation with NHS track and trace systems

Staffing

We are extremely fortunate to have secured some additional staff for term one to reinforce our efforts to mitigate the impact of school closure. We are very happy to announce that Miss Astwood who was with us last term has returned to Brunstane with a remit to support attainment in literacy and numeracy and Paddy Dearlove, our active school coordinator, will be working with classes to enhance our health and wellbeing programme.

Our teaching staff for term one of this session is now as follows:

P1 – **Mr Donnachie** @Primary1BPS

P1/2 – **Miss Rosendale and Ms Roche** - @BPSPrimary1_2, @Primary1_2BPS

P2 – **Miss Renwick and Miss Rosendale** @MissRenwickBPS , @BPSPrimary1_2

P3 – **Miss Finlayson** - @MsFinlaysonBPS

P4 – **Mr Chalmers** - @MrChalmersBPS

P4/5 – **Mrs Niven** - @MrsSNiven

P5 – **Miss Campbell** - @MissCampbellBPS

P6 - **Mr Archibald** - @MrArchibaldBPS

P7 - **Miss Innes** - @bpsMiss

SLC Class – **Miss Sives** - @MissSivesBPS

MLD Class – **Miss Hope and Mrs Ritchie** - , @MrsRitchieBPS

Additional Support for Learning – **Mr Paton** @MrPBrunstane

Additional Support for Learning – **Mrs Mason**

Literacy and Numeracy attainment support – **Miss Astwood** @MissAstwoodP

Health and Wellbeing Support – **Paddy Dearlove**

Time to Talk – **Mrs Rennie** - @BrunstaneB

Outdoor Learning – **Mrs Still** - @MrsStillBPS

I have included class Twitter handles so that you can keep up to date with all the latest news from each class. The main school Twitter account is @BrunstanePS

We are sadly about to say goodbye to Miss Lonie from our Nursery team who is moving on to an exciting new post at Gracemount Primary School. We would like to thank her for being such a warm and committed member of our Early level team. We know that she will be missed by pupils, staff and families alike.

Mrs Still has also left our Nursery but will remain at Brunstane as our Outdoor Learning teacher. Please look out for notes in bags advising what day she will be working with your child's class. Please could pupils wear older clothes and wellies/waterproof shoes on days when Mrs Still is in class – we might well be getting muddy. The school can assist any families who need support to buy wellies or coats. Please give us a call if we can help.

Environment

We are very happy to have made a number of improvements to both the internal and external school environment. These include improvements to the area outside our SLC and MLD classes, landscaping of our Nursery garden, new fencing and an extension to the infant playground and the construction of our basketball court in the front playground. Construction of an additional football pitch alongside the nature trail will be constructed shortly.

We would continue to welcome community support to further upgrade our playground environment. Help sourcing loose parts items including tyres, crates, piping, guttering, wooden cable rolls, tarpaulins, palettes, plastic jugs, saucepans, watering cans and buckets would be greatly appreciated.

Parent Contact Details

It is vitally important that we have up to date contact information for all our families. If you move house or change phone number, please inform the school. It is also extremely helpful to have a working email address as a back up to these methods so that we can send letters home quickly when required.

Parking

We continue to receive reports about cars parked in a dangerous manner at drop off times. We would like to politely request that parents do not park on pavements or block driveways. Please obey all road markings in order to ensure pupil safety.

Dogs

Please remember that dogs are not allowed anywhere on the school campus.

Nuts

Please remember that we are a nut free school and no food products containing nuts should be brought into school. We have a number of pupils across the school who have allergies and they could become extremely unwell if this rule is not observed.

Absence Calls

We would like to remind parents and carers that it is extremely important to phone the school to let us know if your child is going to be absent. If your child is unwell, please include what type of illness you think it may be when you leave a message. It is particularly important that we know if your child has a temperature, a continuous cough or any other potential COVID

Parent Language

We would like to remind parents and carers to be careful with their language in the school playground and at the school gates. Whilst parents and carers are now further away from the pupil lines, swearing has still been audible at times across the playground. Please refrain from swearing whilst on school grounds.

Dates

Unfortunately, due to the current situation, we will not be able to hold any events for parents in the short term. As soon as the situation changes, I will be back in touch with a complete set of date for the term ahead.

Yours sincerely



Chris McMillan
Acting Head Teacher