



BCJS Newsletter

Summer Term 2021

Email: info@banstead-junior.surrey.sch.uk
Website: www.bcjs.org.uk

Dear Parents/Carers

Today marks the end of what has been another very challenging and at times frustrating year for all of the school community. Like last year, I would like to thank you all for your support and patience over the year.

Hopefully September 2021 will see the return to some sort of normality. We are aiming in September to re-introduce many of the activities that had to be cancelled for the last 16 months, e.g. concerts, assemblies, trips. However, the situation is still very fluid so we will be keeping a close check over the summer. Should there be any major changes announced over the summer we will contact you via Parentmail after 18th August.

The new academic year will start for the pupils on **Thursday 2nd September**. Below is the current plan for the first day of the new term.

First day – Thursday 2nd September

In line with new government guidelines there will no longer be any requirements for year group bubbles, or enforced social distancing.

Years 5 and 6

Should arrive in The Base between 8.35 and 8.40. They should go to the small playground where they will be met by their new teachers and be escorted to their classrooms. After the first day Year 5 and 6 will go directly to their classrooms from The Base.

Year 4

Should arrive in The Base between 8.45 and 8.50. They will be met by their class teachers at 8.45 who will escort them to their classrooms.

Year 3

You should arrive in The Base between 8.50 and 8.55. They will be met by their class teacher. For the rest of the year they should arrive like Year 4, between 8.45 and 8.50, where they will be met by their class teacher at 8.45 and escorted to their classrooms.

The gate to The Base will be opened at 8.30 and manned by Mr Richards. It will be closed at 8.50 (apart from the first day of term). Should pupils arrive late they should enter via the School Office.

(1) First Day Departure

Years 5 and 6 will leave from The Base at 15.25. For Year 6 pupils – if you would like your child to walk home on their own please fill in the permission form on the school's website before Sunday 5th September. However, on Thursday and Friday (2nd & 3rd) all Year 6 pupils will need to be collected from The Base.

Year 4 – will leave from The Base at 15.30.

Year 3 - will leave from The Base at 15.35.



(2) Rest of the term – departure from The Base

Years 5 & 6 at 15.25

Years 3 & 4 at 15.30

School Uniform

From September full school uniform should be worn. Pupils are allowed to wear their PE kit to school on their PE days. The teachers will inform the pupils of their PE days.

School Office

Although we still recommend you contact the School Office via email or by phone, however, if you have an emergency and need to speak to the office in person, someone will be available between 8.30am and 4.00pm.

SATs 2021

The Government have indicated that the test will resume in May 2022 for Year 6.

Year 6

We now have to say a sad farewell to Year 6 who are very soon about to start their next chapter in their education. We all wish them well and were pleased that they could at least have a leavers' prom, albeit slightly different than normal!

Government changes over the summer

Schools are no longer responsible for contact-tracing from 18th July 2021. From Monday 19th July 2021, close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace.

The following changes will be in place, in line with the new guidance:

- Isolation rules – from Monday 16th August 2021, children under the age of 18 will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace, as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. They will only need to self-isolate if they have COVID-19 symptoms or a positive COVID-19 test result.
- Bubbles – will no longer be part of the governments' guidance when we return in September. This means we can reintroduce assemblies/concerts etc.

Farewells

We would like to say a fond farewell to Miss Sandercock, who has worked in the school office for over 25 years. Also, Mrs Harrison and Mrs Slater will be leaving the school at the end of the term. They have all been fantastic and we will miss them all.

I would like to say a special thank you to Mrs Shooter and Mrs Hockey who have worked tirelessly throughout the year. Without their support a lot of the school organisation would not have been possible.

Also a big thank you to the Governors for all their time, support and encouragement during this very difficult year.

I would like to say thank you to all the staff who have had to teach/coach/support and learn new skills to be able to deliver the education the children needed.

Thank you to the PTA for their continued efforts in trying to raise much needed funds for the pupils.

Finally, thank you to all the pupils and their families for your endurance this year. Well done to you all!

Have a restful and enjoyable summer.

Kind regards

Mr Scott - Headteacher



July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Letter from the Board of Governors of Banstead Community Junior School

As the academic year draws to a close it is important that the School Governors take the opportunity to reflect on the activities of the school over the last term. We must celebrate the school's many successes while preparing for the ongoing challenges and/or opportunities the rest 2021 may present, not least how we prepare for the new term after the long-awaited easing of lock-down restrictions.

About the Governing Body

The Governing Body is responsible for overseeing the strategic side of running a school: strategy, policy, budgeting, and staffing. The board members give their time freely to enable the school to run as effectively as possible, working alongside senior leaders and supporting teachers to provide an excellent education to pupils of BCJS.

Governors are committed to attend regular meetings that consider issues such as setting the school vision, mitigating financial risk, increase parental engagement and scrutinising educational outcomes. The governors bring a wide range of skills and expertise from their professional lives to the governing board, e.g. experience of finance, law, premises management or human resources. Much of this business accuman has assisted in improving the running of the school.

The school's objectives are to provide an outstanding level of educational performance alongside enabling all pupils to excel in sports and the arts. In short, "developing pupils to become lifelong learners." This educational offer is made available to all children, whether they are disadvantaged, have disabilities or special/unique needs.

To achieve this, the Governing Body has two main sub-committees:

1. *The School Resources Committee.* This is responsible for providing the facilities required to enable our children to have the best possible experience in their education. Committee members are concerned with the non-teaching aspects of our operations such as finance, staffing, premises, maintenance, safety and safeguarding. More recently, this has also included measures to ensure the school remained 'COVID-safe' when open, e.g. additional PPE, staff training, social distance markings, etc.
2. *The Teaching and Learning Committee.* This is responsible for the content of our educational offer (the curriculum) and committee members work closely with our staff and school managers to ensure that all children achieve highly and make excellent progress from their starting points. In response to the pandemic, the remit extended to include reviewing any additional on-line, home leaning resources plus additional mental health guidance.

In 2017 the Board of Governors agreed three priorities that we continue to tirelessly work towards:

1. Consistency in Teaching Quality (and high academic results)
2. Sound Financial Management
3. Improved Communication



Coping with Covid-19

It is fair to say the academic year 2020-21 has been an exceedingly difficult one due to all the distress and disruption caused by the Covid-19 global pandemic. Throughout the year, the governors have worked closely with the school's leadership on all the difficult decisions that had to be made on items like the provision for children of key workers, those deemed vulnerable or those with special educational needs.

During the lockdown there has been a tremendous amount of work undertaken within the school to try to maintain the standard of education expected, with additional training on remote learning and virtual teaching techniques to the various technical training required to deliver this. This was in addition to staying up to date on virus mutations and variants, and updating procedures to comply with updated government guidance.

At all times, the joint aim was to build on the COVID-Safe procedures and provisions while still ensuring parents were confident their child could attend BCJS in a safe and structured way.

PTA

The Governors would like to offer a heartfelt thanks to the PTA for their fantastic efforts to switch to mainly on-line fundraising activities. Their ongoing energy & enthusiasm to continue to raise funds for those extras that enhance the pupils' experience either in the classroom or in the play areas outside have remained a real positive in an otherwise eagerly forgotten year. All parent's contributions to these PTA activities have been warmly received.

Staff

The Governors would like to say a massive thank you to the Headteacher and all the staff at BCJS for their hard work during this very difficult year.

Returning to school in September

As the country moves to Step 4 of the Government's COVID-19 road map, in line with recent guidance, our priority is to return to face-to-face, high quality education where possible. This may result in no longer requiring to keep pupils in consistent groups ("bubbles"), assemblies resuming, allowing mixing during breaks and insisting pupils self-isolate if/when in close contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19

As further guidance is issued by the government over the summer, we will do everything possible to ensure parents and carers remain confident their child can attend BCJS in a safe and structured way, minimising the disruption to your child's education.

Finally, on behalf of the Board, I would like to say a massive thank you again for your ongoing support of the children, staff and running of the school over the last 12 months. As the summer holidays now approach, I hope you can all find a way to enjoy a well-earned break, even if it is a stay-cation!

Kind regards,

David R Parker
Chair of Governors
On behalf of the Board of Governors of Banstead Community Junior School



Sports

Exciting future for school sports teams

Following the covid19 restrictions and three national lockdowns, it was uncertain if and when school sports teams would resume. However, it has been a successful summer term for sports at BCJS; starting up three new teams in year 5, ready to start competing come September. These include: a girls' football team, a boys' football team and a mixed lacrosse team. Returning in September, we will be looking for friendly games against local schools. We will also be hoping to enter in local leagues and enter competitions and tournaments.



More Sports Day
Photo's on the
last page.





DATES FOR NEXT YEAR - 2021-22

Date	Event
1 st Sept	INSET DAY – no pupils
2 nd Sept	Term starts for all pupils
9 th Sept	Individual pupil photos
18 th Oct	Nasal flu immunisation – all year groups
22 nd Oct	School Closed – In lieu of extra Bank Holiday
	Half Term 25 th to 29 th October
3 rd Nov	Parents Consultations – early closure +DVD
4 th Nov	Parents Consultations
11 th Dec	Christmas Jumper Day
15 th Dec	Christmas Lunch
17 th Dec	Autumn Term Ends – 1.20 early closure
2022	
4 th Jan	INSET DAY – no pupils
5 th Jan	Term starts for all pupils
	Half Term 14 th to 18 th February
3 rd Mar	World Book Day
	Bank Holiday
	INSET day
8 th Mar	Parents Consultations – early closure +DVD
10 th Mar	Parents Consultations
19 th Mar	Red Nose Day
24 th Mar	Class Photos
1 st Apr	Spring Term Ends - (1.20 early closure)
19 th Apr	Summer Term begins
2 nd May	Bank Holiday
27 th May	INSET DAY – school closed for pupils
	Half Term 30 th May to 3 rd June 2022
13 th Jun	INSET day
27 th Jun to 1 st Jul	PGL Trip – Year 6 pupils only
15 th Jul	Year 6 Leavers Disco
21 st Jul	Year 6 Leavers Assembly
21 st Jul	Last day of summer term - 1.20 early closure
22 nd Jul	INSET DAY – school closed to pupils

We have worked alongside Mr Burbidge at Banstead Infants to ensure that as many dates as possible correlate between the two schools including INSET days. These are shown with the *. Thank you for your understanding that this cannot be possible for all dates.



Parent Information

Please be reminded of the School's policy in relation to taking pupils out of school without authority. This Policy is available on the school's website for you to read, but we have included the salient paragraphs for you below.

Just to reiterate it is no longer possible for the Headteacher to approve holidays within term time. If you have exceptional circumstances as to why a pupil needs to be taken out of school you must, **before** you do so, get the approval of the Headteacher.

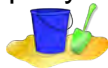
Circumstances when a Penalty Notice may be issued:

- A Penalty Notice may be issued to parents/guardians who are failing to ensure their child's regular school attendance and are failing to engage with supportive measures to improve attendance proposed by the school or Education Welfare Officer.
- Where a pupil is taken out of school (e.g. for a holiday) during term time for 10 sessions or more without the authority of the Headteacher, **each parent** is liable to receive a Penalty Notice for each child. In these circumstances, a warning will not be given where it can be shown that parents had previously been warned that such absences would not be authorised.
- Pupils identified by Policy and Education Welfare Officers engaged on Truancy Patrols and who have incurred unauthorised absences.
- Late arrivals after the close of registration, on 5 occasions during a half-term. The lateness will be recorded in accordance with the Punctuality/Lateness section of our School Attendance Policy.
- **With the exception of unauthorised holidays taken in term time, parents/guardians will be sent a formal warning of their liability to receive such a Notice before it is issued.**



Lost Property

Please make sure that all of your child's possessions are clearly labelled with their name as this will make it easier for us to return an item if it is lost. Any that cannot be reunited with its owner can be found in the lost property box situated between the two buildings.



Press and Media

We've had lots of positive articles in the local press this term. These can be seen displayed outside the hall or you can go online to either Surrey Mirror or Epsom Guardian and use their search facility. We have included some photographs of previous events on the last page.



Parking

Unless prior permission has been sought, please do not park in the school car parks as they are for staff and visitors only. We would expect all parents to park considerately and in a way that would not risk the safety of other road and path users, especially at the entrance to either of the school car parks or the Youth Club car park.

