



BCJS Newsletter



Autumn Term 2020

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Dear Parent/Carers

This has really been a dramatic year – a year that won't be easily forgotten. It started with severe storms and leaves with us all still in the grip of the Covid pandemic. Hopefully, 2021 will be a much more positive year, where life can return to some sort of normality.

As of writing this newsletter, we have now had five confirmed pupil cases within the same class. I suppose we have been lucky so far that the school has been Covid free for so long. This should be a reminder to us all of the importance of keeping ourselves safe by following the advice on hand washing, mask wearing and social distancing.

End of School

This will be as planned from 1.20 on Friday 18th December. **Year 5 – from The Base and Year 6 from the car park as normal.** Pupils will return on Tuesday 5th January at their normal times.

Mrs Burke

Sadly, at the end of the term Mrs Burke will be leaving the school and teaching. She has been such an asset to the school over the last 10 years. I am sure there are many, many children who have benefitted from her wealth of experience. We all wish her well for the future.

Thank yous

I would like to say a massive thank you to all the pupils who have been great over the last year, to the Governors for all their help and support during this difficult time and to you the parents for your support and understanding, throughout this time. I would also like to thank all the staff at the school; many have given more than the extra mile to ensure the school was a safe, secure and happy place for the children.

Thank you also to the PTA who have managed to come up with imaginative events over the term which have helped raise money for the school.

I am sure we all are looking forward to a restful Christmas. Even though it will not be as normal this year, I hope you all have a fantastic time.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mr Scott



Letter from the Board of Governors of Banstead Community Junior School

As the year draws to a close it is important that the School Governors takes the opportunity to reflect on the activities of the school over the last term. Celebrate the school's many successes while preparing for the ongoing challenges and/or opportunities 2021 may present, not least the ongoing impact the Covid-19 global pandemic will probably have on us all.

About the Governing Body

The Governing Body is responsible for overseeing the management side of a school: strategy, policy, budgeting, and staffing. The board members give their time freely to actively support the school's leadership whilst, at the same time, holding them to account for both the results achieved and any shortcomings.

The school's objectives are to provide an outstanding level of educational performance alongside enabling all children to excel in sports and the arts. In short, "developing pupils to become lifelong learners." To reach these goals, the Governing Body supports the Head Teacher, the school's leadership team and all staff as they look to maintain a high level of engagement, behaviour management and teaching excellence across the school. 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. (For 2020, 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. (For 2020, this also included the provision of any additional on-line, home learning resources plus additional mental health guidance.)

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

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

Response to Covid-19

It is fair to say this has been an exceedingly difficult academic year due to all the distress and disruption caused by the ongoing Covid-19 global pandemic. In such unprecedented times, it has not been easy to plan and find ways to enable students to continue their education whether at school, when open, or at home during lockdowns or self-isolation. However, throughout all this the school's priority has always been the safety of all pupils, staff, and connected families.

During the initial lockdown in Spring to the more recent one in Autumn, the governors have continued to support the school's leadership in all the difficult decisions that had to be made regarding things like provision for children of key workers, those deemed vulnerable or those with special educational needs.



Indeed, many governor meetings were held over Zoom so matters such as school finances, premises, health & safety, safeguarding, staffing etc., could still be discussed and moved forward. At all times, the governors aim was to build on the COVID-Safe procedures and provisions while still ensuring parents were confident their child could attend to BCJS in a safe and structured way.

Behind the scenes, there was also the ongoing hard work of non-teaching staff, such as the office staff and premises manager to make, maintain and update the required adjustments, according to each set of government guidelines to enable children and staff to safely attend the school.

The PTA should also be credited for their fantastic efforts to switch to mainly online fundraising activities. Their ongoing energy & enthusiasm to continue to raise funds for those extras that enhance the children's experience either in the classroom or in the play areas outside have remained a real positive in an otherwise eagerly forgotten year. Every parent's contribution to these PTA activities have been greatly received and will be put to good use, e.g. the next phase of the refurbished swimming pool area.

Despite all the disruption throughout 2020, the Governors of BCJS remain committed to ensuring all the children are ready academically, emotionally and socially for the next stage of their education by the time they leave the school. This could not be achieved without the commitment of a team of professional and experienced teaching staff who have all worked especially hard to deliver throughout this year.

While there is hope that a vaccine will become available in 2021, there is still a chance of further restrictions or even local lockdowns. Therefore, the board is committed to supporting the school in making the right decisions for all involved. Like you, we await each set of Government advice & guidelines. From which in turn, further guidance will be issued so parents and carers remain confident their child can attend to BCJS in a safe and structured way.

On behalf of the Board I would like to say a huge heartfelt thank you again for your ongoing support of the children, staff and running of the school over the last, very challenging 12 months. It certainly hasn't been easy for anyone. However, as the school holidays approach, I hope you can all find a way to enjoy a well-earned Christmas break. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely

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



Congratulations and well done!

This half term, there has been some fantastic fundraising efforts by Frankie O'Shea in Year 5 and lyla O'Shea in Year 3. Frankie and lyla both took part in sponsored activities with in order to raise funds for the school. Although it was really hard work and tiring both girls persevered and completed their 10 miles, raising over £1000 for the school. Wow, what an amazing achievement! We are very proud of you and want to say a huge THANK YOU for the funds raised. You are both super stars!



DATES FOR NEXT YEAR 2020-21

Date	Event
4.1.21	Terms Starts
9.2.21	Internet Safety Day
	Half Term 15 th – 19 th February 2021
4.3.21	World Book Day
8.3.21	Mock SATs week (Mon-Wed)
19.3.21	Red Nose Day
22.3.21	Easter Egg Comp – bring in eggs Mon/Tues
25.3.21	Class Photos
30.3.21	Parents Consultations – late
31.3.21	Parents Consultations – early closure +DVD
	Easter Holidays 2 nd to 16 th April 2021
19.4.21	Children return to school
3.5.21	Bank Holiday
28.5.21	INSET day
	Half Term 31 st May to 4 th June 2021
7.6.21	INSET day
21.7.21	Last day of summer term 1.20 finish



Parent Information

Packed lunches

Just a quick reminder about ensuring your child has a healthy and balanced packed lunch.

We have been monitoring lunches and noticed several children are bringing in chocolate bars, biscuits and cakes.

Our Food Policy states the following constitutes a balanced packed lunch (in line with the British Nutrition Foundation):

- A portion of starchy food (e.g. bread, pitta, crackers, pasta, rice or couscous)
- At least one portion of fruit or vegetables
- A portion of milk or dairy food (e.g. cheese, yoghurt, milk)
- A small portion of meat, fish or alternatives (e.g. two slices of ham, chicken, beef, Quorn, tuna, hummus)
- A drink of water, fruit juice, milk or smoothies. No fizzy drinks.

It also states that the following items should not be provided and brought into school:

- Sweets, chocolate etc.
- Savoury snacks high in salt and fat
- Fizzy/sugary drinks
- Sweet cakes, doughnuts etc.
- Packets of nuts/other nut based products.

Thank you for your co-operation.



Lost Property

Please can you make sure that all of your child's possessions are clearly labelled with their name, this will make it easier for us to return an item if it is lost. Any that cannot be reunited with their owners can be found in the lost property at the bottom of the stairs outside the school hall.



Non-Prescribed medicines

Please be reminded that non-prescribed medicines, cough and throat pastilles, alternative medicines, etc., are NOT permitted in school. Please refer to our school brochure, page 39, 'Healthcare'. Thank you.



Responsible Parking

Please remember to always park responsibly at drop-off and pick-up of your child. We have received reports of several near miss incidents recently. Thank you.

