

# Bramble Infant School & Nursery Newsletter



Friday 22nd January 2021

Issue: 07

Dear Parents and Carers,

The start to this term has been very different to how I had planned it to be. In response to rising infection rates we have had to restrict the numbers of children that are in school and provide remote learning for the majority of our children that are at home. However, our nursery remains open with our usual safety measures in place. I am thankful for the hard work of staff in adapting to constantly changing government messages and still providing excellent teaching and learning whether that is face to face or remotely.

We do not know how long the restrictions on attendance during this lockdown will last but, as always, we are here for you. If you or your child needs support please speak to a member of staff.

Kind Regards

Mr O Bradley—Headteacher

## Financial Support

**If you are worried about money, there is free, independent and confidential advice available from local services or online. The help available includes:**

1. Benefits entitlement check to maximise household income
2. Specialist debt advice for any unmanageable debt
3. Money advice to reduce household bills including gas, electricity and water costs

For advice, visit [www.portsmouth.gov.uk/money](http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/money) or contact Advice Portsmouth - call 023 9279 4340, text 07789 550593 or email [advice.portsmouth@theyoutrust.org.uk](mailto:advice.portsmouth@theyoutrust.org.uk).

## Digital Device Donation

The need for digital devices such as tablets and laptops, and broadband internet at home has never been greater, especially with the current expectation of remote learning.

Where we are aware of families that might need help with getting appropriate devices we have been able to support by loaning out school equipment but our resources are limited.

If you have any unused digital devices (tablets or laptops) that you would be willing to donate to the school and nursery we would be very grateful. Also, if you have any connections to businesses that would be willing to support us by loaning or donating devices please do get in contact through the admin office.



## Solent Employment Services

Solent Employment Program is being run by Portsmouth and Southampton City Council's to help support the local communities when they are out of work and provide help and support to help the individuals to get back into paid employment.

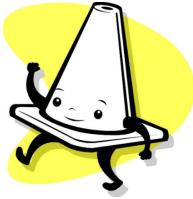
This year and last has been unprecedented with the level of redundancies and reduction in hours causing many families a new level of financial and emotional stress. This program is voluntary and those who choose to join are given personal support from their Employment Adviser who together with the participant create a personal plan on what you need.

This could be CV writing, training courses, help reviewing current job search techniques and improving upon these, finding childcare options, help with looking at all transferable skills to open up other career avenues and introducing clients to employers through their links across the region. The aim of the program is to help the individual progress at their pace to feel more confident and to find the right role that they can sustain in the long term with the right job for them. They have already had many people benefiting from the service and getting back to employment, others have greatly felt that the contact from their adviser in such uncertain times has been a huge help managing their stress and anxiety levels.

If this sounds like something that could help you or someone you know, please contact them directly to have a conversation about what they could offer you by calling Kathy Denham on 07940 537763 or emailing [kathy.denham@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:kathy.denham@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)

# Our Governors

Despite the different way in which school and nursery is operating at the moment our governing body is still hard at work (remotely) monitoring standards of teaching and learning, compliance with statutory responsibilities and wellbeing of staff and children. Our governing body is made up of 12 people who represent staff, parents, ex-parents and other professionals who all volunteer their time to support the school and nursery to become a better place for all. Below is a summary of the outcomes of recently completed monitoring activities. These summaries are written specifically for parents to let you know what is going on 'behind the scenes' and I hope that these will be a regular feature of our newsletters.



## Health & Safety Monitoring

The Health & Safety Governor, having monitored practices on site against the Covid Risk Assessment, is satisfied that all the procedures and activities outlined are in place, implemented effectively and regularly monitored by site staff and the leadership team.

*Completed by Kirstie Crout (H&S Governor) during Autumn Term 2, 2020.*

## Strategic Improvement Monitoring

Governors participated in a range of activities during December (that were able to be undertaken within Covid restrictions), to monitor how effective the new 'project Discovery Learning' approach has been with the Year 1 classes it was rolled out to in the Autumn term. It's intention was to foster curiosity, engagement, and excitement about learning.

Governors saw evidence that the approach is extremely beneficial and shows great promise and we look forward to being able to continue this development in both Years 1 & 2 when the situation allows in the next year.

*Completed by Share D'All, Scott Kirby-Carter, Chris Restell, Richard Pearce and Charlotte Gerada during December 2020.*



The Governing Body is looking for a **new governor who has skills and experience in the management of organisational finances**; it doesn't need to be in an educational context as you will be able to learn that as long as you have this type of background. If you meet this description, or know someone who does, and would be willing to consider becoming a governor, please make contact with us through the admin office. Anyone taking on this role would attend, and eventually Chair, our Finance Committee (which is usually during the school day) and the Full Governing Body meetings which take place on Monday evenings. This exciting role could easily fit around 'working from home' expectations

# Our Learning



This week in **Primrose Class** the children have loved creating lots of different sounds with the musical instruments and sensory shakers. They have also done lots of singing and listening to music and taking turns with the musical bag.

Since coming back from the Christmas break in **Bluebell Class**, the children have been getting to know each other and the new children that have joined. They have explored the room and are enjoying traditional stories. Look closely, can you guess which story they have been learning about?



The children in **Blackberry Class** have been enjoying lots of exercise this week. They have been joining in with Cosmic Yoga, with movements representing the story 'We're going on a bear hunt' as well as taking part in 'Dance 'n' Beats'. Phew!

In **Year R** this week the children in school and at home have been challenged to write their names quickly and clearly. In school, the children are motivated to do this by having to write and display their names if they want to go outside!



In **Year One**, the children in school have been using their geographical knowledge to explore the differences between human features and physical features. The Year 1 children at home have also been tasked with having a go at similar activities.

In **Year Two**, at home and at school, we have been thinking about Wellington which is the capital of New Zealand. We have been finding out facts about different tourist attractions and using these ideas to make a poster about Wellington.

