



22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

## BHPS Newsletter No.19 2020~2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the end of another busy week I wanted to make contact with you all to bring you up to date with one or two matters.

### Thank you

We are very grateful for the positive messages we have been receiving from parents in relation to remote learning. The staff are working incredibly hard to support families with this and they are all performing tasks that are far different from their normal working practices. I applaud them all.

I would also like to say a massive **Thank You** and **Well Done** to all those parents who are managing to support remote learning whilst also trying to continue with their own work and daily lives. I am under no illusion as to how difficult this is for you all. You too are working out of your comfort zones and I applaud you all for your efforts. Without wishing to sound patronising – **give yourselves a big pat on the back.**

### Engagement

We are monitoring how many children are attending the daily *Teams* meetings and also which children are uploading work onto *SeeSaw* or *Tapestry* on a regular basis. We are delighted that engagement is above the 90% mark so thank you – this is fantastic. School staff are also trying very hard to be understanding of everybody's individual circumstances and we fully appreciate how families are working in different ways. We are following up those children who do not engage with remote learning because we don't want any child to be disadvantaged by the Lockdown.

We would be grateful if parents could remind children that they should not be using the MS *Teams* 'chat' facility unless instructed to do so by their teacher. This is particularly relevant for year 5.

We have encountered one or two situations where some pieces of work are planned to be carried across for several days. If a child starts, or continues with, a piece of work at home, please can they bring that on-going piece into school if they have a key worker place. Similarly, if a child has a key worker place at the beginning of the week, we will photocopy any pieces of on-going work to take home, so that they can complete it remotely.

### Fund Raising

I'd like to give you advance notice of a fund-raising event that we will be supporting. Dylan Ward, a former pupil and brother of Oscar at BHPS, will be setting out on a sponsored walk to raise funds for research into gene therapies for the condition NF2. He plans to complete a 50 mile walk as soon as the lockdown rules are lifted sufficiently. Watch this space.

### Asymptomatic Covid Testing for Primary Staff

You may be interested to know that the government intend to begin twice-weekly, optional home Covid testing for all primary school staff from next week. As yet, these test kits haven't arrived with us but I will keep you informed if this takes place. As yet, there is no talk of any such testing for children.

### Good News

Congratulations are in order for Mrs Higgins and her husband following the birth of their daughter. At such a challenging time for all of us, it's great to be able to share such wonderful news and I am pleased to be able to say that both mother and daughter are doing very well.

Take care

Yours faithfully,

Pete Taylor  
Head Teacher