



Byfield School
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12th March 2021

School Open to All:

It has been a great week - school feels complete again now all children are back. It has been good to walk around the school - it feels like happy place and it good to see children are all focused. For the 3 weeks leading up to Easter Holiday, we have 3 major focuses:

1 - Ensure all Children are Happy and Settled.

KS2 are using PE lessons, using a sports scheme called Team of Life, which was written by NHS psychologists. It uses sports, and sports psychology to look at skills which help anyone focus, aim for goals, and produce their best performance (on the sports field, classroom, or anywhere). Each week a home activity will be set, which will tell you as parents what they have covered (this week was about getting into the zone - and ensuring your mind is free from negative thoughts) and give an optional activity if you want to look at it more.

KS1 have focused on the book - Colour Monster and looked more at feelings. This work was launched during lockdown - with our happiness bags, and they have followed it up by learning more about how to manage different feelings.

Despite additional pressure from above on 'catch-up' - activities such as Art, Hotshots, Topic lessons, Remote School trips have continued to happen - not only is important that children have this breadth of learning, but it also provides children with that additional spark - which makes school a great place to be.

2 - Assessment

Teachers are using the 3 weeks before Easter to assess where children are again - so they can have the most focused teaching after Easter. This year there are no national tests - this means no Early Years results for Reception, no Year 1 Phonics, no Year 2 SATs, no Year 4 times table tests and no Year 6 SATs. This gives us more freedom to choose the best way to assess exactly what the children know, and what they don't know so we can make the most possible progress before summer. Although some assessment is through Tests - children will not be spending hours doing tests (although older children will be doing some) - instead, teacher will be setting tasks and challenges, writing activities, having class discussions, and using the knowledge of what they already know about children to inform this judgement.

3 - Key Skills

The next few weeks there will be an increased focus on Arithmetic, Writing, Phonics and Reading. These are the foundations for everything else in education. Additional funding is being used to employ additional TA hours - to help children in these areas, as well as this being a focus in many of the Maths and English lessons.

Easter Hat Parade:

On Friday 26th March we will be holding a whole school Easter Hat parade for pupils to all come together (outside and bubble-distanced!) to celebrate Easter and admire each other's hats. We request that children come into school with a hat. It would be great if this was an Easter Hat - even if it is just a simple headband with pictures stuck on. If you don't have time to make an Easter hat - please send your child into school wearing any other hat.

Comic Relief:

On Friday 19th March, we will be celebrating Comic Relief. The theme is wearing something silly - it could be anything. Comic Relief have teamed up with Parent Pay this year, so you will be able to make contributions to Comic Relief directly from your parent pay accounts - so please don't send your children into school with Money.

This is the link to pay vial Parentpay:-

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=3095>

Lateral flow testing for parents. (Not children)

Attached is a letter from Northants Local Authority. Parents can access Lateral Flow tests.

Around 1 in 3 people with coronavirus (COVID-19) do not have symptoms but can still pass it on to others. Regular testing of people without symptoms (asymptomatic testing) is important to help stop the virus spreading. As lockdown restrictions gradually ease, we all need to play our part to help protect each other.

On Sunday 28 February, the Department of Health and Social Care announced that from Monday 1 March, households with primary school, secondary school and college age children, including childcare and support bubbles, can test themselves twice every week at home as schools return from Monday 8 March.

Please click on the link below for more information on how to get these tests.

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff?utm_source=1%20March%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

Face Masks

Please can all adults continue to wear a facemask when on school grounds.

Kingswood Catering

It is good to have hot meals up and running again. Menus are online and bookings can be made up to the Easter Break. If you do your bookings weekly, please ensure they are made by midnight on the Wednesday. If you miss the deadline, or have any queries, please contact the school office.

Byfield Good Neighbours Scheme

The BGNS has done, and continues to do, amazing work supporting families through these difficult times. If you feel you would benefit from some support, then do please get in touch. Contact details are below or if you prefer speak to or email Miss Rawden in the school office who will be able to help.

ByfieldGNS@gmail.com

01327 227000

Dates for the Diary

String music lessons – every Monday, Guitar and keyboard music lessons – every Tuesday

Friday 19th March – Comic Relief <https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=3095>

Monday 22nd March – Earth Day

Friday 26th March – Easter Hat Parade – whole school

Friday 26th March – break up for Easter 3.15pm

Saturday 27th March – Earth Hour (turn off all electricity for one whole hour)

Wednesday 12th April – school opens 8.45am

Monday 3rd May – **Bank Holiday School Closed**

Tuesday 4th May – Bikeability Tuesday – Friday (Owl Class)

Friday 28th May – Inset Day – school closed

Monday 31st May – **Friday 4th June** – Half term

Monday 7th June – school open 8.45am

Plants! We are looking for some plants to have in classrooms. If anyone has any plants which you might like to rehome we would love them here. Also any cuttings so we can grow them on here in school would be welcome too. Thanks

6 AirPurifying House Plants

