



## Bicton C of E Primary School and Nursery

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Head teacher: Mrs Natalie Johnson BA (Hons)

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Firstly, we want to say a huge thank you to all our families for your support over the past four months. The changes which we have had to introduce for children at home and those attending school have only worked because we have had your support, which we are eternally grateful for.

We are so pleased to have been able to welcome some of our children back into school over the past few weeks and it has been reassuring to see how well they have settled into the new routines. The school still seems very quiet and, with bubbles being taught in different parts of the school, it is a very different atmosphere.

### Reports

The end of year school reports look slightly different this year, but we wanted to make sure you still received one. Your children have all worked incredibly hard throughout this and we want to praise them for that. If you usually receive two copies of your child's school report and you have received it digitally, we would be grateful if you could share it digitally yourself. If this is not possible, please email the school office with details of the other parent or carer's email address so that we can email them a copy. Please can you also complete the online form, to confirm that you have received the report, which you can access from the link in this week's newsletter on the website.

### Transition

The latest government guidance looks like we will all be able to come back together in September, if the virus continues to decline. For the children at home, your teacher/s for September will be sending you a message on the website shortly to say 'hello' and tell you a little bit about what to expect in September.

A 'new starter' information PowerPoint will be emailed directly to families whose child is joining our Reception class. As we have been unable to hold our normal transition visits, we will also be sending out a link to a virtual 3D tour of some parts of the school. Details will follow next week and we hope this will help children start to familiarise themselves with their new classroom.

For all of our children, we know that September will be very different for them. For many children, it will take a while to adjust after being at home for such a long period of time at home. Our staff are all aware of this and we will be planning activities to support children's wellbeing and social skills, and this will be in place for as long as children need it. Our curriculum will be planned to take into account that some children have been out of school for many months. Please do not worry that your child will have been at a disadvantage if they have not been attending school; we will focus on finding out exactly which areas we need to revisit with children.

The work you and your children have been doing at home is amazing, so you should feel proud of how you have helped them whilst juggling everything else at home.

## Year 6 Leavers

We are very sad that our Year 6s' experience of finishing primary school is very different to previous years. The Year 6s in school have been busy creating clips for a video and the Year 6s at home have also emailed in their contributions, which will be collated to create a Leavers' video. This will be posted on our school website at the end of term and I am sure you will join us in wishing them all every success for the future as they start secondary school.

## New classes for September

There are a number of changes for the forthcoming year, which we are very excited about. Firstly, you will notice that we now have classes named after trees rather than class numbers. The names were all chosen by our Year 6s based on trees which they identified in our school grounds last week (with a bit of guidance from Mrs Johnson!) We will also have two Year 3 and 4 classes next year and their classrooms will be next to each other, which will allow them to work together at times.

Class name	Year group/s	Teaching staff	Which room?
Acorns	Nursery		Current room
Willow	Reception and Year 1	Mrs Bowes	Current Class 1
Hazel	Year 1 and Year 2	Miss Moran & Mrs Thomas	Current Class 2
Maple	Years 3 and 4	Mrs Erasmus	Current Class 4
Rowan	Years 3 and 4	Mr Taylor	Current Class 5
Oak	Years 5 and 6	Miss Carr & Mrs Johnson	Current Class 3

We hope that your child can start to get excited about September, now that they know who their teacher/s will be.

## September bubbles

When we return in September, we are still expecting to be working in bubbles. Our current plans are that two classes will be seen as one larger bubble. We will be continuing with the staggered drop off and pick up times and we will give you plenty of notice of these over the summer, once all of the arrangements are in place. **Please remember to subscribe to emails so that you receive all updates posted to the website.**

## Extended schools provision

We will be operating Breakfast Club the first week back but after-school care will not restart until the second week of term. This will only be running until 4:30 in the first instance and this will be reviewed during the autumn term. Booking will be required for after-school care and more information on how to do this will be sent out over the summer.

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We will be leaving a plastic box outside the main door next week, for you to drop off any items from school that you have at home e.g. reading books, brass instruments. **We close for the summer holidays on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July for all children and we return to school on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September.**

## And finally...

I would like to say a huge thank you to all the staff for their hard work and commitment. Many of them have juggled their own childcare issues and other family needs and have very quickly had to adapt to new ways of working in these challenging times. I hope you will agree that they have done an amazing job!

Take care and stay safe

Mrs Johnson x