



End of Academic Year Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers,

So, we have come to my last information letter of this academic year. It certainly has been another year to remember! It would be very easy to write about the second school closure which has dominated our lives over the past few months but I also want to reflect on all the fantastic things we achieved and will achieve again as we move forward to a new academic year. Our fantastic children who have shown strength and resilience, our remote learning procedure which received very positive feedback from all, our work in the community, the attitudes and ethos of our children and our fantastic Schools Fest project are all things we need to celebrate from the past 12 months in school. As always it would be impossible to write about each and every one of the exciting learning opportunities and experiences that have kept us busy over the year! Needless to say, our twitter feed @BunburyACE and Facebook page are a great way to look back and recall all of those magic moments that show our 'Love for Learning' and opportunities to 'Let their Light Shine' to the full.

I am incredibly proud to be Principal here at Bunbury and I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff, pupils, parents, governors, directors and members of the local community for making this school a special place to work in. The dedication of the staff is outstanding and I am always amazed at the lengths that they all go to, ensuring that learning is as it should be – inspiring, motivating, engaging and above all fun! Just a quick glance back at the year on twitter and Facebook gives me enormous pride and shows the wealth and depth of experience and opportunity on offer. This could not happen without such a dedicated team all making outcomes for children the best that they can be. Together, you all certainly make it the best job in the world!

This week we said goodbye to our year 6 leavers. Not a year has gone by that we have not celebrated and said farewell to our year 6 class, this year despite everything happening in the world, was not going to be any different. Last Friday, we celebrated and marked the end of their primary education with our traditional water fight. Joined by Rev Tim, Mrs Gray, Miss Hickson and myself were really fighting a losing battle from the start and we all ended up extremely wet! Today we have also celebrated in Church during a special service where we have watched the children perform *The Tempest*, presented bibles, trophies and certificates as well as shared in some final memories of their time at Bunbury Aldersey Primary School. Along with our year 6 leavers we are also saying goodbye today to Hattie and Aggie Pugh who are moving to a new school closer to home and Alberta Gaskell who is moving to Abbey Gate. I know these children will be all sadly missed but they all take with them their special memories of their time at our school. They will always be part of the Bunbury school family and we look forward to hearing about how they progress in their new schools.

As we come to the end of the summer term, there are a number of parent volunteers, who I would like to thank, who give up their time to support the school voluntarily through the year. I would like to say thanks to Mrs Duckett and her team of parent council representatives who meet with me regularly to discuss and improve the provision at Bunbury. Also to our very active and enthusiastic PTA, who through the year have through, 'out of the box' thinking continued to raise money so that we can provide those extra facilities for our children. This year in particular I would like to say thanks to Mrs Cole who has led our PTA team this year. We look forward to being able to hold some more fantastic fundraising events in the new school year in person.



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A huge thank you to you as parents too. Your partnership is really appreciated and helps us to develop and improve in many areas. As we come towards the end of a very different and challenging year, I wanted to thank you all for your kind, caring and understanding support of school. Also for the many gifts which have been left for myself and the staff in the school office.

And lastly, to our fabulous children. They never fail to amaze me with their happy, inquisitive and positive attitudes towards school. Together you all help to make this the best job in the world.

As we look forward to September, I wanted to reiterate some of our plans. The following information is based on a full and comprehensive risk-assessment which has been completed and shared with the Trust board.

When will my child return to school?

All children will return to school in the autumn term. Term will begin as planned on Thursday 2nd September. All children will return to school on this day and attendance at school is mandatory.

How will my child be taught?

Children will no longer be required to stay in discrete bubbles for their learning and play. Predominantly all children are taught in their year groups however we are now able to offer some cross over with other classes to support pupils in areas such as phonics and spellings. We will though keep a register of which children may have mixed closely within a group.

What will my children wear?

All children can return to school in their full school uniform from September. If children wish to come back in summer uniform this is permissible until October half term. On the days that your child has PE we are asking that they continue to come to school in the morning in their full PE kit. They do not have to bring their school uniform with them as they will remain in their PE kits all day. Black jogging bottoms may be more advisable particularly as the weather changes further into the term as PE lessons will take place outdoors and the black PE hoody may also be worn on these days only. There will be no PE on the first 2 days back at school and PE days for each class will be communicated to parents via letter during the first week of term.

Bunbury Badgers

Bunbury Badgers will continue from the autumn term back and they will be relocated back in the mobile classroom. We will still be open for before and after school care from 7.45am and after school till 6pm.



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What arrangements are in place for the start and end of the school day?

There will no longer be staggered start and finish times for each class. Instead the gates will be open from 8.40 – 8.55. We ask that children are not brought to the site any earlier as there will be no supervision from any staff member. Any children who are dropped off before this time will be taken to Bunbury Badgers and an invoice will be sent home for any acquired hours of care.

All children from September will use the driveway to the left of the school to enter following the one-way system. The one – way system is clearly demarcated with arrows and we ask all those who are dropping off or collecting to continue to observe the system in place as it has helped with the smoother entry and exit from the school grounds. When dropping off we are asking parents to continue to do this promptly as the children will now be going straight into the classroom and not playing on the playground before school. We have found that this has been a much calmer start to the school day and therefore beneficial to focusing the children ready for their learning.

Face coverings will no longer be required to be worn by parents or visitors when entering the school site, unless they choose to do so.

What about Lunchtimes?

Lunch will now be eaten back in the school hall and a full hot dinner menu will be offered. We will also be able to offer a snack at break and we ask you to send something with your child if they want a break time snack. Children will be sat in their class groups which will operate on a staggered entry during the lunchtime hour, we will also still continue with an enhanced cleaning routine during this period.

What happens if there is a positive case in September?

From 16 August 2021, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are identified as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead, children will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals at this point to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

As school, we will continue to have a role in working with health protection teams in the case of a local outbreak. If there is an outbreak in a setting or if central government offers the area an enhanced response package, a director of public health might advise a setting to temporarily reintroduce some control measures.

Pupils, staff and other adults will continue to follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do. They should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19. If anyone in school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, we will still send them home and ask parents/guardians to follow the latest public health advice.

The household (including any siblings) should follow the PHE stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection.



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As I have said in many of my communications over the past 18 months – our school is reliant upon children being in the building, making relationships and working together. Even though we have not all been able to be in school for the whole year, I have been blown away by the ways in which our school community continued in a virtual form. Although far from ideal, I am grateful and appreciative of the many different ways that teachers have sought to engage with and support learning at home. Learning that you have supported and provided time for too. We could not have done that without us all working together.

Traditionally, we end our school year with a visit to the church as a whole school family. Sadly, this year we have been unable to do this once more. However, we may not all have been able to gather altogether in the same room, but we've built a community that distance and disaster cannot break. That may well be our greatest achievement.

I hope you all have a fantastic summer break with your family and friends and we look forward to seeing everyone back safely in school on Thursday 2nd September.

Nic Badger

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