



Belmont Primary School Newsletter October 9th 2020



Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to the end of another week where the school continues to be a hive of activity.

Year Five 'Strings'

This week our Year Five children took receipt of their violin, viola, cello or double bass which they will be learning over the coming months with our friends at Tees Valley Music Service. I have to say that speaking with the children, there seems to be huge excitement about the learning of a new skill and I certainly enjoy watching (and listening) to how they develop over the weeks.

'Contingency Planning'

You may have seen or heard that the government brought in '**The Coronavirus Act 2020 Provision of Remote Education (England) Temporary Continuity Direction**'. In essence, it is a directive to schools to ensure that remote education is offered should children be forced to stay at home as a result of COVID-19. I am sure you will not be surprised to learn that, like most other schools, we already have such a plan in place without the need for such a directive and have had this since the outbreak of the virus. With this in mind, please be assured that, should children be absent as a result of the Coronavirus, we will continue to provide appropriate learning tasks for them.

School Lunches

Over the past week or so, we have been embarking on some 'fact finding' missions to see if and how we can introduce some form of hot school lunches and we do have some ideas which we are looking to investigate further. Like you, we are keen to offer this provision but in a way that is safe, effective and efficient. We will keep you updated on this.

Gathering on Site

This is a bit of a tricky one, but I will explain the concerns expressed to me. When dropping children off, there are some adults who are remaining on site. However, this might well be because the family has more than one child with different starting times which is unavoidable. The issue which has arisen is that it would appear people are gathering within the recommended social distance of one another and this is causing some of our school community to feel ill at ease. We do appreciate the challenges with keeping distance between one another but if we are all able to continue to exercise vigilance, this would be greatly appreciated. Many thanks.

Lauderdale Drive Speed Restrictions

Being on 'gate duty' before and after school is a task Mr Magor and I thoroughly enjoy, getting the opportunity to speak with so many of you. It also provides an insight into how the road is 'used' and I will stake that we have both become increasingly alarmed at the speed at which people drive along Lauderdale Drive. Of course, it is not simply members of our school community who use this road but it is many of our community who are driving in excess of what would be a logical and appropriate speed given the time of day and the fact people are crossing the road. This morning, we have spoken with the local authority highways department who are firstly, going to ensure that the 'flashing signage' is operating as it should. If this is the case, we will be discussing what further measures can be taken to keep everybody safe, although much of this will come from the responsibility of those who drive on this road.

Attendance

Although there is no longer any competitive element to this, last week across the school we had 99% attendance with six classes achieving 100%! Unbelievable!
Wishing you all a pleasant weekend (and please note the calendar for 2021 - 2022 with PD Days to arrange).

Yours Sincerely,

Mr C Gibson