



THE BATT C.E. SCHOOL



## THE BATT CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the first newsletter of the year. The new leadership team, myself and Paul and the existing Assistant Head, Emma, have been working our way through all the new systems and procedures - so thank you for bearing with us. Also thank you to the parents offering suggestions and comments around communication and uniform - we will address these within this newsletter.

I have been so impressed with the children starting school; they have welcomed me with news of their holidays and of course whether they have a sibling in St Marys. The Year 3 children asked me questions to find out a little more about me, so if you want to know what my favourite animal or food is - they will know. Today, however, in collective worship when asked about my age, I told them 102. Feeling pleased with my answer, I was told by a 'littly' that they knew that because they could see my wrinkles!

Communication in school is vital and we are looking at how effective it is at The Batt and the changes that are needed. The newsletter is under review and will be presented in a new format as soon as possible. We are also looking at the discrepancy between the amount of teacher communication in the infants and the juniors. We need to balance information with quick and easy communication between the families, teachers, school office and leadership team. We will keep you posted and will value your feedback. I work with an open and honest culture where I do want and appreciate your views. If we talk about things early, rather than share our views with others first, problems can often be sorted out quickly. This also applies to social media where, as we know, we often feel able to say what we want as it is not directly to a person. I am aware the names of some children have been mentioned on social media recently and ask that this please doesn't happen. Again, any problems, please do pop in and talk to me. I am at St Marys for a full day on Thursday and at The Batt all day Friday. The rest of the week is across both schools.

So finally, please do have a lovely weekend. Stay safe and I will see you all on Monday.

Charlie Barwell  
Executive Headteacher

### Other News

#### Start and End of the Day

The school gate opens at 8.45am. Please try to arrive as near to that time as possible to avoid overcrowding and queueing.

The gates open for the end of the day at 3.00pm.

#### Parent Mail and Parent Pay

The last few activation letters have been sent out today for new pupils. Please let the office know if you have any further problems and we will address them. Thank you for your patience while we finished setting the systems up.



## PE

There have been a few questions concerning PE times and changing. We have weighed up the reasons for and against wearing kit into school in conjunction with the DFE guidance. There is little reference to the changing of clothing having measurable impact on transmission. There is however, from the safeguarding teams, some concerns that schools have been missing key chances to spot potential issues. The infant teams were also missing the key requirements of children learning to dress themselves and the PE lead said that there was not the ability to change PE times last minute due to weather or curriculum changes. Kit in school means PE can always take place. If your children have PE first thing, then they may come in PE kit with their uniform to change into. Children in Years 5 and 6 change separately. All classes have two sessions a week. If they swim, one session will be dropped.

## After School Clubs

We are in the process of setting up a number of after school clubs and these will start the week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> September. We will send out further information on how to book and pay for these as soon as possible.

## Second-hand Uniform

We are going to be having clothes stands available at the start and end of the day, where we are encouraging you to take what you need. If your child grows out of anything, please wash it and add it to the rail. We are committed to reusing where possible and helping to protect our environment. In the last term, we are also hoping to have some second-hand secondary school uniform available.

## Pupil Premium

\*Pupil Premium Eligibility\* Do you receive any of the following?

Income Support/Employment Support Allowance

Income Based Job Seekers Allowance

Support under the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999

Universal Credit

Child Tax Credit

State Pension Credit

If you do, the school could be eligible to claim certain grants for your child. This is a significant amount of money that can be used to support your child. Even if you are only eligible for a short amount of time, the Pupil Premium funding stays with your child for six years. Please come in and talk to Cat O'Driscoll to see how we could help your child. All matters will be treated in the strictest confidence.

## Covid update

This information is current as of 8/9/2021 and may be subject to change depending upon national or regional circumstances as we progress through the year. Further guidance and support will be shared with you should that be the case.

Relaxations from previous year's requirements:

There is no longer a requirement for schools to exercise social distancing arrangements, bubble grouping and other management arrangements (such as one-way systems, phased catering provision) to separate pupils and staff within the school setting.

Additionally, should there be a positive case experienced within our school, the need to enforce isolation of groups of staff or pupils has been removed.

## **Positive COVID case actions:**

- Anyone who tests positive - child or adult- should self-isolate for 10 days
- Close contacts with that person are encouraged to take a PCR test. This is not mandatory, and these persons are not required to isolate unless they become a positive case themselves. This particularly applies to anyone who is double vaccinated or under the age of 18 years and 6 months.
- There is no need for persons who are in a household setting, where there is a positive case, to self-isolate.

The school has thorough risk assessments, procedures and contingency plans in place as well as continuing with regular hand washing, sanitising and teaching the children about good behaviours regarding coughs and colds. If you have any questions, please do ask.



## News from our Classes

RAW - The children have settled in well and we have spent time this week learning about our classroom and school routines. We've explored the garden, played on the Trim Trail and the big school field. We have even been into the main school hall for our first PE lesson. Please see Homeroom for photos of our adventures.

The current systems are working well, and the children are now enjoying their lunches in our garden. Our pickup and drop off will remain the same with one small change with regard to lunch choices. From Monday, the children will find their name card and put it in the correct basket. This is instead of telling the teacher their choice on the gate, hopefully this will get everyone into the garden as quickly as possible and ready to learn. Thank you all for your support this week, it has been great fun getting to know the class. Enjoy your weekend and congratulations on making it through the first week of big school.

1M – The children in 1M have had an amazing first week back into The Batt and settling into their new classroom. We have had a busy week with lots of learning taking place; mini beast hunt on the field, identifying what is magnetic and what is non-magnetic, being introduced to Jigsaw Jack and so much more. 1M have thrived with the new routine with daily phonics, Maths and English and wider topics in the afternoon. 1M will and are continuing with learning through play and children have shown that they can independently carry their learning into their play and learning. Children have settled into Collective Worship with whole school and infants well and are enjoying being with other children during these times, including play times. I would like to thank every parent for their support and kindness this week in settling the children into 1M and I am looking forward to a brilliant year with you all!

2D - What a fantastic start to Year 2! I feel very lucky to have the children back with me after an interrupted year in Reception due to Covid. The children have settled incredibly well and have quickly learned new routines and expectations.

Our topic, The Great Fire of London, has already sparked excitement and enthusiasm! The children have already learned lots of facts, and even some Cockney Rhyming Slang, because a child said they have their own language in London!

We are focusing on place value in Maths over the next few weeks. In English, we are learning how to write facts and will be looking at and writing diary entries.

3CW - The children in 3CW have started the new school year really well and are enjoying getting to know each other. They are showing a great attitude to their learning and are particularly excited about our new History topic, the Stone Age!

3D - The children in 3D have made an excellent start to the new term and we have really enjoyed getting to know them. They have shown great enthusiasm for their new topic, the Stone Age, and have settled into their new class very well.

4M - Fabulous 4M have come back strong! They have remembered so much from Year 3 and have already demonstrated a sound understanding of Year 4 Place Value and the punctuation of dialogue. We've begun our work on the Anglo-Saxons and are looking forward to the Hands on History, who are coming in October to teach us and bring the facts to life through role play.

4NJ - We have all enjoyed being back in class, seeing our friends and beginning our learning. We have begun reading our new class books: The Legend of Podkin One-Ear by Kieran Larwood and The World's Worst Children by David Walliams. The children are loving the adventures and humour of the characters in these stories. We have started to learn about electricity, and exploring our first big question, 'What is electricity?' 4NJ have been excited too to begin their learning about The Anglo Saxons through a fun song, which they sang in parts and rounds. We had so much fun creating an amazing piece of art, The 4NJ Pebble River, which represents our class and our journey in Year 4; each pebble is unique and special like each of us. Together, we make a great team. The 4NJ Superstars are all looking forward to the best year!



5H - The children in 5H have settled really well and the children have had a great first week back. We have started to read our class story 'The Butterfly Lion' which the children are enjoying. Both classes got together this week to do some team building and problem-solving activities which was good fun. Our history topic this term is the Tudors, and the children were given the task of putting periods of history onto a blank timeline - they worked well with their learning partners and then we created our class timeline on the wall. Well done 5H.

5W – The children in 5W have made a great start to the new school year and everyone is settling in really well. We have been thoroughly enjoying our new class book, 'The Butterfly Lion' by Michael Morpurgo, which has really captured our imaginations. We have also enjoyed some fun team building activities and had a good look at our timeline of British history in preparation for starting our topic on The Tudor period next week, which we are all looking forward to. A fantastic first week, well done 5W.

6PH and 6PW – The children in both Year 6 classes have made a very positive start to the school year. They have been tempted by a range of texts as they carried out an activity called 'Never judge a book by its cover'; the children are reading a range of genres from graphic novels, adventure to empathy and the classics. All of the children have been actively involved in insightful, thoughtful discussions across a range of new topics, including our WW2 focus, Science, R.E and English texts. We are very excited for the year ahead.

