



Berewood Bulletin

Berewood Primary School, Kentidge Way, Hampshire, PO7 3BE.

Telephone 02394 006 070 | www.berewoodprimary.co.uk

Email: office@berewoodprimary.co.uk

Headteacher: Mr Ricky Leigh, BSc. (Hons.), NPQH

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Headteacher's update

As I wrote this on Wednesday night, I was listening to the Prime Minister declare that, for the time being, schools will not reopen to all pupils until 8th March at the earliest. We'll keep you updated on this as we get more information as it may be subject to change. I know that that will doubtless fill many of you with frustration, and the Prime Minister acknowledged that too. These remain tricky times and we're immensely grateful for all the effort and support you're providing for the children with their online learning. We absolutely appreciate it's different for every one of our families though there will be much that is the same for many of you. Hurrahs and well done for almost reaching the end of the fourth week of lockdown and for supporting your child at home with their home learning. You are continuing to do an amazing job and all your hard work is certainly paying off because the teachers are saying the work uploaded is really great! Lots more children are attending the live Zoom sessions and in some year groups attendance is really high, which is fabulous!



We also want to take this chance to say thank you to all our keyworkers from our Berewood family including all our school staff, kitchen team and cleaners who are working hard to keep things ticking over. These are strange and uncertain times and we appreciate what you're doing to help our West of Waterlooville community and our school community at large.

In my conversations with parents and carers it hasn't gone unnoticed that some of our families are struggling, not with the work itself necessarily but with the volume of what's being provided. This time round the government have been really clear about what we needed to set for children, how much on average per day, based on their key stage. I know it feels different, many of you were clear about that when you spoke to me or to school staff during a welfare call. Please don't feel under pressure to complete everything if that's not working for you and your family. It's about trying to do your best. Do get in touch with your child's teacher in the first instance if you have any queries

Fingers crossed we'll be back to normal soon and the school is re-connected again. Meantime, please continue to enjoy the online assemblies and don't forget to email photos or a short video to office@berewoodprimary.co.uk as it would be great to see what the children have been up to. Please note by sending media you are giving permission for this to go online. It would be fantastic to show off all the fun things you're doing as a family to keep happy, well and active. Time away from a device is so good for physical health, mental well-being and posture!

Proud to be part of the **UNIVERSITY OF CHICHESTER** ACADEMY TRUST



Welcome to Berewood

Joining us since my last newsletter are Mr S. Hunt, Teaching Assistant (Y2), Miss C. Oatley, Teaching Assistant (Y2), Miss A Ranson, Teaching Assistant (Y3) and Mrs K. Edwards, Teaching Assistant (Y5). We're pleased to welcome you to our Berewood family.

Governors' Award

The first awards for a Random Act of Kindness will be published on the YouTube channel in the coming week (we'll send you an email to let you know when it's live) and children will receive a certificate for a 'Random Act of Kindness' as nominated by their peers. Children learning at home will have their certificates posted out to them.



PTA Update

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 10th February 2021 at 7:30 p.m. (Zoom link to follow). The minutes were sent out a couple of weeks ago and can also be found on the PTA page of the school website.



House points

From next week house points earned and the winning houses will be announced by the House Captains in the online assembly each week. House points are awarded for good work, being polite and kind and helpful and can be awarded by any member of staff to any pupil. Once they reach 50, 75 or 100 points they're awarded a bronze, silver or gold house points certificates awarded in our weekly Celebration Assembly.



School staff Home Testing Kits Covid -19

One in three people are said to be asymptomatic and have no symptoms of Coronavirus. As part of helping to find positive cases earlier in the community all school staff have been invited to take part in an optional NHS/DfE twice weekly home testing programme. Obviously, this may cause some disruption if someone tests positive and a bubble has to close. We will do our best to keep you updated on how this community programme is going.



Online and Remote Learning

Teachers continue to provide a daily timetable of live catch up sessions for your children but I wanted to make you aware of the BBC Primary Bitesize materials and educational programmes, which can be found BBC iPlayer. They run every morning for Primary age pupils.



Care first' for parents

As the COVID-19 situation is progressing and the Government guidance continues to change, individuals may be feeling anxious. Mental Health support during times like these are paramount, which is why Care first have worked tirelessly to ensure services remain available 24/7 throughout the pandemic to provide emotional and practical support and ensure they have every aspect of your overall well-being covered

The link to Care First is below:

<https://carefirst-lifestyle.co.uk/>

Username: unicatp

Password: wellbeing

If you wish to contact the Care first telephone counselling and information line, then please don't hesitate to call the Freephone number provided and you can speak to a professional in confidence Call Care first for in the moment support on [0808 168 2143](tel:08081682143)



Free school meal vouchers for the February half term break

We were pleased to hear of the government's commitment to the free school meals programme for the upcoming break and will be writing to eligible families in the early part of next week about this programme.

Contacting school staff

Just a reminder that school staff are often working during the school day and so an immediate response to an email isn't always possible but they will always try to respond to you just as soon as they can. Teachers and other school staff are only required to respond to home learning and email queries between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. on school days. These are pressured times for us all so please be patient, we will get you a response to your query just as soon as we possibly can.

Best wishes always and stay safe, Mr Ricky Leigh, Headteacher

