



# Berewood Bulletin

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

Telephone 02394 006 070 | [www.berewoodprimary.co.uk](http://www.berewoodprimary.co.uk)

Email: [office@berewoodprimary.co.uk](mailto:office@berewoodprimary.co.uk)

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

Issue 4 – February 12<sup>th</sup> 2021

## Headteacher's update

Dear Parents and Carers, I'm writing this in the week leading up to half term and I hope you're planning to have a break from school / online learning, even though for the time being we can't travel away. It definitely will be good when we can! There is still no further news on schools reopening, other than that the Prime Minister will address the nation on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. As soon as that has happened and it's clear what that means for us as a school, I will write again of course.

This month Mrs Carter, Deputy Headteacher, has joined us from our sister school of Langstone Infant Academy in Portsmouth. Many of you will remember that she has been seconded by the Trust to support us until the end of the summer term whilst we complete the search for our next substantive Deputy Headteacher. It's been great having her join us and I know she has been able to meet and work with staff and pupils in just a short time. We're in full swing with our Deputy Headteacher recruitment too and I provide a further update on this later in the newsletter on page 3.

In an attempt to bring you 'more news, more often' we have decided to increase the frequency of the newsletter to fortnightly (they were monthly before) and I hope you find the new format and increased frequency of some help in keeping up to date with what's happening in and around school. I was heartened as always to receive so many lovely emails from parents and carers praising the staff and the hard work they have been putting in to support you and your children during these times. My personal thanks go out to all our team for their efforts. As we go into the break today please do take time to rest, relax and recharge. No school homework is being set during this time but reading can often provide much needed escape from the troubles of the world. Here's hoping you can find time to enjoy the break as a family and I look forward to being back in touch with you from 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021. Have a super holiday!

### Dates for your diary

Monday, 22 Feb 2021 - Spring term re-starts. School reopens for pupils who are vulnerable or children of keyworkers who have arranged a place in school in advance.

Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – World Book Day – details on events and vouchers to follow.

Monday 8 – Friday 12 March 2021 – British Science Week (details to follow)

Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7:30 p.m. PTA meeting, all are welcome (Zoom link to follow)

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 – End of the Spring Term, school closes after lunchtime (letter to follow)

Monday 19 April 2021- This is an INSET day and school is closed to pupils.

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

## Welcome to Berewood

Joining us since my last bulletin is Mrs M. Carter, our seconded Deputy Headteacher from Langstone Infant Academy in Portsmouth. Langstone Infant Academy is one of our sister schools and we're grateful to the Trust and to the leadership team at Langstone for lending you to us. Welcome to Berewood Mrs Carter!



# Thank You

### Thank you!

We say goodbye to Mrs Cooper (Year 2 Teaching Assistant) who left us this month. Thanks Mrs Cooper for all your efforts and we wish you well.

### PTA Update

The PTA met this week and are working on some exciting events. All parents and carers are members of the PTA simply by their children being enrolled at the school. Mr Leigh attends these meetings as well and it's a great way for you to be involved in supporting the school and your children. The next meeting will be held on **Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7:30 p.m. all are welcome.** Look out for the Zoom link for our next meeting and the minutes of this week's meeting which will follow soon.



### House points



Thanks to the House Captains: Daniel, Ella, Monette and Zac for their super jobs in helping me to steer the assembly each week. I am sure you'll agree that they're doing a super job! I'm delighted they are able to take part. Hopefully we can get the Vice-Captains involved after the break as well to introduce different sections. It's a team effort after all and the children love to do it!

### School staff Home Testing Kits Covid-19

Our testing programme has started and is progressing well. We continue to take part in this 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 during half term break

Please take a break from this and have a rest. Many thanks.

### 'Care first' for parents

New webinars are uploaded each week so do check back for more information. 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

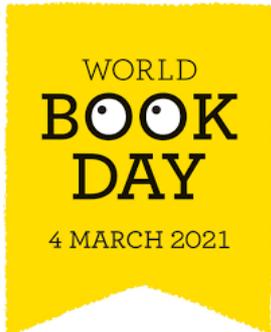
The link to Care First is below: <https://carefirst-lifestyle.co.uk/> Username: unicatp Password: wellbeing

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**



## Free school meal vouchers from Monday 22 Feb to Friday 5 March

The government has recently agreed to extend the term time free school meals programme for the period of the first two weeks after the holiday. If you're eligible then look out for vouchers in your email inbox from *Edenred*. Edenred are the government nominated supplier for the term time vouchers. We'll be sending out redeemable codes in the first week back.



## World Book Day 2021 – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March

I'm delighted to confirm that yet again we're due to take part in World Book Day 2021 on 4<sup>th</sup> March and with a week of exciting activities. My thanks go to Mrs Ward (KS1 English leader) and Mr Langmore (KS2 English leader) for their hard work in putting together a number of events for this week. This year we won't need book character costumes so please don't go out and get these, we're doing something else instead which will be easy to fashion from things you have at home already. Mr Langmore and Mrs Ward will give you more details after the break when they will be 'taking over' the bulletin in the week of 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021. It'll be a special World Book Day edition to bring you news of what's planned. There won't be a traditional Celebration Assembly in this week more details will follow soon.

## Mental health week – Express Yourself

Last week we celebrated mental health with a number of events and we were pleased to see how well the children engaged with the planned activities, particularly the freedom Friday events when they wore their own clothes, went off time table, planned and made sock puppets (and shows), took time out to watch a DVD and more. More information and support around children's mental health can be found at <https://www.place2be.org.uk>



## Internet Safety Day

This month we took part in internet safety day. As a parent or carer you play a key role in helping your child to stay safe online. You don't need to be an expert on the internet to help keep your child stay safe online. The advice and resources on the UK Safer Internet Centre are great to help support you as you support your child to use the internet safely, responsibility and positively. Take a look at the free resources from the UK Safer Internet Centre here: <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>



## Deputy Headteacher recruitment



Earlier in January we advertised for a new Deputy Headteacher to join us from September 2021. I was amazed at the response we have received so far with over 20 candidates who have got in touch to express an interest in the role. Some have been able to visit the school in a socially distanced manner or have met with me virtually. I have met or spoken with everyone and many have also had the chance to meet member of school staff and the senior leadership team. As a reminder the closing date is 22<sup>nd</sup> February and we plan to interview on 10 and 11 March 2021 when I will be joined by our Chair of Governors, Mrs Ashley and colleagues from the school team. I'll write and let you know in due course how we're getting on.

## Masks on site – a correction

In December I contacted you about wearing masks on site following change to Trust policy. A few of you got in touch to discuss this matter with me. A review of that decision subsequently followed and we'd like to confirm that, in line with the rest of the nation, we'd like to let you know that a mask is desired and highly recommended for everyone's benefit but realise that some parents and carers may be exempt. A couple of you with an exemption stated you'd be wearing a sunflower lanyard to make this clear and we appreciate this small but significant gesture.



Best wishes always and stay safe  
Mr Ricky Leigh, Headteacher

