



Berewood Bulletin

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Issue 7 – week ending 28th January 2022

Headteacher's update



Attendance	
So far this term up to the week ending 28.01.2022	
Whole school	96.1%
Reception	95.1%
Year 1	96.5%
Year 2	97.3%
Year 3	97.3%
Year 4	95.2%
Year 5	95.7%
Year 6	95.0%

Dear Parents and Carers,

January has been so very chilly! We hope that the first few weeks of school have started well for you. This week it has been good to share with the children the need for us to continue to protect our planet. It's definitely a current topic, and one which we will come back to again during the school year. I was excited to hear from the children all about the different things they could do to try and look after the planet.

Year 1 Wondrous Writers

I was amazed this week to spend time with children in Year 1 who were sharing their writing with Mrs Carter and me. One of the boys I spoke to read me part of his story including all about how 'The storm raged around the house.' When I asked him what 'raged' meant, he said that the storm was really angry. His eyes lit up! It was such a joy to read and he and the other pupils I spoke to thoroughly deserved their golden headteacher award stickers for their wondrous work. My thanks again go to all of the staff involved in planning the wonderful unit of work based on *The Storm Whale* by Benji Davies.

Senior leaders on gates and in the corridors at the start of the school day

I'm delighted to have been joined by all senior leadership colleagues who are supporting our welcome for families and children in the morning on the gates and in corridors. Our aim is to be available to greet our families in the morning, answer any questions you may have and help children to move quickly from the corridors into class so they're ready for the day. On different mornings I'm joined by Miss Annalls – SENCO, Mrs Carter – Deputy Headteacher, Mr Fogden – Business Manager and Mrs Nelson – Senior Teacher.



28-30 January	RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch – see the end of the newsletter for more info
31 st January	Year 1 Reading Meeting for parents and carers, 2:40 – 3.10 p.m. Year 1 Reading Meeting for parents and carers, 5 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Please see the letter sent home already and return the slip to confirm attendance.
3 rd February	Year 5 Dressing up day – Come Fly with me: America – see letter sent home already
7 th February	Safer Internet week – email to follow
7 th to 11 th February	Mental health week for children – email to follow
21-25 th February	Half term
3 rd March	World Book Day – letter to follow
7 th March	Parents' consultations, Day 1 of 2 – letter to follow
9 th March	Parents' consultations, Day 2 of 2 – letter to follow

Removal of plan B measures – what it means for face coverings at Berewood

27th January saw the removal of Plan B measures by the government across the country including the removal of the requirement to wear face coverings. We want to get back to normal as soon as possible but in a measured and sensible way for our staff, pupils and families.

Public health guidance continues to advise using face coverings in “crowded and enclosed spaces”. We believe this is Berewood at pick up and drop off and inside the main corridors and lobby.

To make things easy we have included a simple table of what to do at Berewood:

Situation	School instruction
Drop off and pick up, if outside of classrooms and well away (over 2 metres / 6 foot) from the classroom door	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Do not congregate too close together ◆ Wearing a face covering is still strongly recommended for parents and carers
Approaching the classroom door to speak to a member of staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Keep a safe distance if possible ◆ Still need to wear a face covering* to approach a member of staff on the door
Visiting the school office or attending an appointment in school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ All visitors and staff MUST wear a face covering* in all communal areas, when travelling around the school site in corridors and in the main lobby. (Trust requirement)
	<p>*We understand that not all disabilities may be visible. We warmly welcome the wearing of a sunflower or exemption lanyard at those times when a face covering is required or strongly recommended at Berewood.</p>

Many thanks for helping to keep us all safe. Please do get in touch if you have any questions.

COVID-19 update

We have returned to many changes in terms of isolation periods and I am with you if at times it feels quite confusing. It can be. Do keep a close eye out on what the government is confirming for those people testing positive for covid-19 and their contacts. It changed again from Monday 17th January with main isolation periods coming down again from 7 days to 5 days **but always backed up with a negative lateral flow test on day 5 and again on day 6 (24 hrs apart) which is required BEFORE people return to school or work.**

Even at Berewood we're not immune from the effects of the Omicron variant. The virus is all around us in the community and the country at large. This does mean that at times members of teaching staff may not be able to be in work because they themselves are isolating or they are supporting younger members of their families who have to isolate. Please bear with us and we ask for your understanding when this happens as it is often at short notice without the chance to email you regarding this. We're continuing to ensure that children wash their hands on a regular basis, spend time outside and that classrooms continue to be ventilated as much as possible to ensure that we can keep classes open.

What can you do?

- Keep your child at home if they are showing symptoms, do a test and check it's negative **before** sending them to school!
- Make sure they wash their hands after being outside, on their return home from school and at other times if they have met up with others or been out in a public place.

Follow government advice and guidance

The government continues to say:

Do not send your child to their nursery, childminder, school, college or to an entry test for a selective school if:

- they are showing one or more [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) symptoms](#)
- they have had a positive test result
- there are other reasons requiring them to stay at home, for example, they are [required to quarantine](#)

You should follow public health advice on [when to self-isolate and what to do](#).

PTA Update



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you have had a good first couple of weeks. We held our first meeting on Monday 17th January to discuss Events for the 2022 Calendar. Thank you to those who joined us. We are now working through some of the amazing ideas and will put a plan together for the year.

Please also remember to re-submit your Consent to Share form sent out from the office on Dec 17th. We require a completed form from every member of our Facebook Page. Those that we do not hold this information for will unfortunately have to be removed from the group. So please take a moment to click on the [link](#), it only takes a minute to complete. The deadline for the forms to be completed by is January 31st.

Finally thank you for your continued support, it means together we can support both the children and the school by providing them with their Outside Stage Area.

Best wishes,
The PTA Committee



RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch

You may have seen on TV and the internet that the annual Royal Society for the Protection of Birds' (RSPB) **Big Garden Bird Watch** is nearly here. You can sign up for free for your family and get more information here:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/?from=Homepage>

The RSPB says: "Be wowed by your local wildlife. Big Garden Birdwatch is for everyone, whether you're a complete beginner or a birding expert. Simply count the birds you see in your garden, from your balcony or in your local park for one hour between 28 and 30 January 2022."

Even if you don't have a garden you can still take part – they suggest watching from your balcony or at the local park. Keep your eyes peeled!

Keep your child safe online

It is important to have regular conversations about staying safe online and to encourage children to speak to you if they come across something worrying online.

Talk to your child about the importance of creating a safe online environment, including keeping any log-in details and passwords safe.

These resources will support you to talk to your child about a range of online safety issues, set up home filtering in a child-friendly way and set up age-appropriate parental controls on digital devices:



- [Thinkuknow](#) by the National Crime Agency - Child Exploitation and Online Protection command (NCA-CEOP) - resources for parents and carers and children of all ages to help keep children safe online
- [Childnet](#) has developed [guidance for parents and carers](#) to begin a conversation about online safety, as well as [guidance on keeping under-fives safe online](#)
- [Parent Info](#) is a collaboration between Parent Zone and NCA-CEOP - support and guidance for parents and carers related to the digital world from leading experts and organisations
- National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) - [guidance for parents and carers](#) to help keep children safe online
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - tips and advice for parents and carers to keep children safe online - you can also [report any harmful content found online through the UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- [Inclusive Digital Safety Hub](#) and [Online Safety Hub](#), created by South West Grid for Learning in partnership with Internet Matters - support and tailored advice for young people with additional learning needs and their parents or carers
- [Parents' Guide to Age Ratings](#) explains how the British Board of Film Classification rates content, and gives parents advice on choosing online content well

New curriculum

Our new 'Learning Means the World' curriculum has been launched to the children in their classes since the start of term. We have sent out a general information letter and also curriculum newsletters last week. Please do have a look at these as they will help you to know what your child is learning. You can also find them on the website here:

<https://www.berewoodprimary.co.uk/page/?title=Dimensions+Curriculum&pid=184>

Books bags, not rucksacks please in Reception & Years 1 to 3

We have noticed recently that backpacks of all shapes and sizes have begun to be brought into school instead of the school book bags we use for children in the lower years.



The storage of items in school is limited in the cloakrooms and pegs are organised in two rows for maximisation of space. It's for this reason that we must kindly ask that children in Reception, Year 1, 2 and 3 use the thinner book bags (with or without logo) for their reading books and reading records. In these year groups book bags are stored in boxes for easy access and to minimise the need to leave the classroom. Backpacks and bags other than the classic book bags don't fit into the storage system. The bags can be purchased cost effectively either from our uniform suppliers [Hampshire Uniforms](#) or [Skoolkit](#) or through online retailers.

Many thanks for your help in this matter.

Have a great weekend.

All best wishes,

Mr Ricky Leigh, Headteacher



One of the graphics on the walls in our library. It tells the story of Berewood, the ancient land around us and the tall ships in Portsmouth.