



News Bulletin *15th January 2021*



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome

A new year, a new term and a new lockdown. Goodness me. My tenure as new Head Teacher really has begun with a bang. I am pleased to say that in spite of this, the staff and children have extended a very warm welcome to me. The staff have been particularly supportive, looking after me and embracing the operational changes that have swiftly been introduced. They are clearly passionate about the children, the school and the wider community and are keen to ensure that we remain present, whilst further restrictions to normal life are in place.

Increasingly, I am beginning to familiarise myself with the parent body too. I have enjoyed opportunities, thus far, to be able to make links and for us to get to know one another. Over the coming weeks and months, I look forward to getting to know you all better.

Remote Learning

Infrastructure has been developing at pace and as we approach the end of the second week of this half term, the roll out of Teams (our new remote online digital platform) is starting to take shape. The promise of daily contact with the children has been our guiding motivation and will remain so throughout the school closure. The response from the parent body has been overwhelming positive, so thank you. Your patience, as we overcome technical issues and begin to build a programme of online content, has been much appreciated. A parent step-by-step guide will accompany the newsletter to assist with this further. As we head into next week, Kindergarten will begin to establish their online presence. The rest of the teaching team will continue to master the technology's capabilities and in turn the level of content will develop too.

Appropriate Online Use

Thank you for the quick responses, providing Teams permission and acceptable use. Even at a distance, our school values, including 'community' and 'respect' are just as important. As Head Teacher, I would appreciate it if you can support us in preserving these core beliefs, by ensuring that the children remain safe and behaviour expectations are maintained at all times.

Parent Survey

We are keen to receive feedback from the parent body regarding Teams and our remote learning offer, which you will receive shortly. This will be used to support the growth and direction of online and additional learning that can be accessed, across each week. As a school, we are aware that what it looks like from the context of one family, may well be different to another. Our intention is to provide you with an appropriate programme, which can be adapted – as much as possible – to meet with the demands of home working and child care commitments. Your opinions in helping us to achieve this are valuable.

Children's Books

To support remote learning, the children's books and resources are being made available for collection. If you haven't managed to do so yet, please can you contact the school via reception@bristolsteinerschool.org and arrange a convenient time.

Appropriate clothing

As is customary for this time of year, cold snaps may well be on the way. As the children are often outside learning and playing, can you please ensure that your children wear appropriate clothing that will keep them warm and dry. Thank you.

| Diary Dates | |
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| First Half-Term ends: | Friday 5th February 2021, 3.15pm |
| Second Half-Term begins: (INSET DAYS) | Monday 15th February 2021 Tuesday 16th February 2021 |
| Pupils start: | Wednesday 17th February 2021 |



And finally...

A new year always brings with it new hope and optimism. Never in my living memory has there been a time when this has been more keenly sought. As thoughts turn towards Spring, the days draw out and the wonders of science perform their magic, there truly is a sense that we can begin to emerge and reconnect, replenish and restore.

Thought for the week

*Yesterday is history,
tomorrow is mystery
and today is a gift, that
is why it is called the
present.*

~Eleanor Roosevelt~

With very best wishes,

Nicola Forder

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