



Dear Parents & Carers,

19th March 2020

In all my years of teaching this is one of the most difficult and emotional letters that I have ever had to write.

You will all be aware of the Government's decision yesterday along with the rest of the World to close all schools in England as from the end of school tomorrow. Some schools will be open with just a few children, those felt to be vulnerable and if there is a need to support key workers, although at this time it is not clear exactly who they are. It is most likely that schools will work together to support these children. At the moment it is unlikely that Buckland Newton will be open however some of our staff will probably be helping elsewhere.

HOME/SCHOOL PACKS

These will be sent home either today or tomorrow and we will make individual arrangements to distribute packs to children that are absent at this time. We now have a home learning button on our website homepage and we are posting information for parents/carers as we receive it. We realise of course that this is not going to be easy but all my teachers have worked hard to make this work for everyone with a collection of activities and tasks that are both paper and IT based. We are very privileged to live in this area and lots of play, exercise and fresh air are just as important.

RESIDENTIAL TRIPS

Unfortunately, these trips will no longer take place. With regard to the Mill on the Brew trip all monies will be fully refunded via our School insurance scheme but at this point I am not sure how or when this will happen. We will do our best to sort this as soon as possible. The PGL trip to Barton Hall will be cancelled nearer the time when we anticipate a full refund for all children. We will keep you updated of this as soon as arrangements are in place.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

A voucher system is being put in place for all children who are entitled to FSM. As soon as I am fully aware of how this works I will inform the families concerned.

YEAR 6 LEAVERS

Some of the children have expressed their disappointment at not being able to experience all the activities that normally happen when they leave this school. Please be assured we will come up with a plan which will include Buckland Newton CE Primary School Hoodies, farewell parties etc.

Continues – please turn over...

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day



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SUMMER ASSESSMENTS

The Secretary of State for Education announced yesterday that the 2019/20 national curriculum assessments will not take place this year.

This means that all the following assessments are cancelled:

- end of key stage 1 and key stage 2 assessments
- phonics screening check
- multiplication tables check
- science sampling tests
- all statutory trialling

HOT SCHOOL MEALS

All hot school meals that have already been purchased will be credited in full by Chartwells, hopefully within the next 48 hours, but please would you avoid phoning them as they are understandably experiencing a lot of calls.

MAPLE CLASS ASSEMBLY

We are planning for this to go ahead tomorrow at **2.45pm** but this may change at any time - you will be contacted by text if this is the case.

FBNS EASTER CHOCOLATE TOMBOLA

In order to make use of the FBNS Easter Bingo prizes, we will be holding a chocolate tombola tomorrow for the children during the school day. If your child would like to take part they should bring a £1 donation tomorrow for a tombola ticket – everyone is a winner and eggs etc will come home with the children at the end of the day.

If you need to contact me at any time, please do so through the school office – emails will be constantly monitored - **office@bucklandnewton.dorset.sch.uk**

I am sure we all have difficult times ahead and for us all this is a step into the unknown but I really do wish you all well and look forward to seeing you all in the future.

With my love

Nicki