



# Weekly Update

23 April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have all had a relaxing Easter holiday and were able to enjoy some of the easing of COVID19 restrictions. It has been lovely to see all the children back this week - especially with the warm weather and the chance to open the field.

School life is still similar to before Easter - children are continuing to work in bubbles and having lunch in the classroom. Our main focus is still to settle the children back into school, rebuilding relationships and friendships, and for teachers to continue to assess children and identify gaps in their learning.

COVID restrictions will continue to have an impact on how we operate school - especially not being able to invite parents in for our traditional events such as Sports Days and various performances; however, as always, we will do our utmost to minimise any impact on the children. Maestros will continue to come in and offer peripatetic music lessons, Year 4 and Year 6 will be going on their residential trip to Oakwood in Wokingham. Year 3/4 are beginning to practice for their performance and Year 6 transition arrangements will continue, and we will look at how to do their end of year performance, and the leavers assembly. We are likely to have a Sports Week, where children will compete in a range of races and activities within their bubble.

## **Parents' Evening**

We will hold a Parents' Evening (virtually) on Tuesday 11th & Thursday 13th May to give an update on how children have settled back into school. As before, we will not provide any summative assessment data or a written report provided. We are holding a range of summative assessments in June and will feed these results into the End of Year written report.

## **Staffing Update**

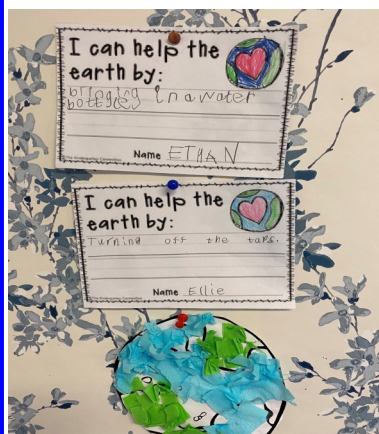
I am pleased to say that Mrs. Russell will begin to return to work next week. I know she is looking forward to getting back into the classroom and seeing the children (face to face - rather than over Zoom!).

I would like to welcome Mrs Jennifer Chick who is joining the Year 5/6 team as their HLTA. She will be taking all four classes to release teachers for their planning and preparation time.

I previously mentioned that Miss Mustoe is working from home, before going on maternity leave next month and Mr Laws is teaching in 5M for the rest of the summer term.

## **Earth Day**

On Thursday Birch Hill Primary celebrated 'Earth Day' where the children completed activities linked to supporting our environment and discussed ways in which we can protect our planet. This term we will begin to work towards our Green Flag award as part of a new initiative to become an eco school.



Year 1 did cards for Earth Day

Reception Children celebrated Earth Day by planting some herbs and sugar snap peas and are looking forward to trying them when they have grown. Reception's Earth Day promise is to save water by turning taps off when they are not being used.



## Dates for the Diary

James Sunderland MP Visit to meet School Council	Friday 30th April
<b>BANK HOLIDAY</b>	<b>Monday 3rd May</b>
Year 5 Residential Meeting March '22	6.30pm—Thursday 6th May
Parents' Evening	4pm-7pm Tuesday 11th & Thursday 13th May
Year 6 Height and Weight Check	Tuesday 18th May
School Photographs	Wednesday 19th May
Reception Height, Weight, Hearing and Vision Check	Monday 24th & Tuesday 25th May
Year 3 & 4 Performance (more details to follow)	Thursday 27th May
<b>HALF TERM</b>	<b>Monday 31st May—Friday 4th June</b>
National Sports Week	Monday 21st—Friday 25th June
Year 6 Secondary School Transition Day	Wednesday 30th June & Thursday 1st July
Year 4 Residential to Oakwood	Thursday 1st—Friday 2nd July
Year 6 Residential to Oakwood	Monday 5th—Wednesday 7th July
Annual Reports to go out	Friday 16th July
<b>END OF TERM</b>	<b>Wednesday 21st July</b>
<b>START OF AUTUMN TERM</b>	<b>Thursday 2nd September</b>