



# Newsletter 6

29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Hello and welcome to the latest newsletter from Beacon View.

What a strange start to the year this has been, it is very weird not seeing all of the children in school every day and not as nice having to communicate with the vast majority of our families through social media, email or phone. We miss the children and love seeing what they are getting up to at home. I hope that it will not be much longer before the school will be able to open fully and we will be able to get back to some kind of normal life.

For now though, we recognise the importance of following the Covid-19 restrictions and are working hard to do our part to keep numbers of Covid -19 cases low, as always the latest risk assessment for the school can be found on the website [www.beaconviewprimary.co.uk](http://www.beaconviewprimary.co.uk)

We are very proud of how well everyone is doing this term so far. The school is a hive of activity caring for the children of critical workers and educating those at home through live lessons and I think you will all agree that the staff here have done exceptionally well to adapt their teaching to online in a very short period of time and with almost no warning.

There has of course been technical issues and support needed with equipment and learning, but I know many of you have been impressed with the school's response so far so thank you for all of the lovely social media comments, emails, cards and support we are getting from our families. It really means a lot to everyone in school to know that their hard work is appreciated.

As you will have heard, we do not know exactly when schools will be opening wider yet but we have been told we will receive two weeks' notice and it will not be until the 8<sup>th</sup> March at the earliest. As soon as we know more, we will let you know. Until then, thank you to all of our families who are supporting the school and their children with the online lessons, only together will we be able to make sure that the impact of being out of school is kept to a minimum.

Very best wishes,

Mrs Mitchell

## **Important Information**

### **INSET Day and Half Term**

As previously advertised, Beacon View has an INSET Day on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February. This means that the school is closed for staff training. Half term is the following week and the school will be closed to all pupils over half term, in line with government expectations. This means that no live lessons will take place and no children will be able to attend the school site on these days.

School will reopen (to the children currently in school) on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February and on this date live lessons will restart for all pupils learning at home.

### **Lateral Flow Tests**

The staff in school have all started testing for Covid-19 twice a week. So far, all results have come back negative. Please do be aware though that there is the possibility of a bubble closing at late notice if a member of staff tests positive one morning. Please have a think about alternative arrangements for childcare just in case this happens.

## Resources Available



### READING BOOKS

Every other Monday, you can collect the children's next reading books from the school. These are provided in packs of three and are at the correct reading level for your child. Please return the old books when you come to collect the new ones. The next two dates for collecting the reading books are:

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February and Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

### MATHS RESOURCES

On Monday (1<sup>st</sup> February), as well as collecting the new reading books, you can also collect some maths resources for the children to support their maths lessons. These resources include things such as whiteboards and pens, number lines, 100 squares and will really help the children to make the most out of their online lessons.

### STATIONERY PACKS

Stationery packs were given out two weeks ago to all families who wanted them, these included handwriting books, scissors, pens and colouring pencils. If we had run out of any equipment or you have since used yours up and require some more, simply request some when you come to collect the reading books or maths resources.

From now on, to make life easier for you, all of these items can be collected at the same time and from the same place. They can be collected on the two Mondays listed above from the Learning Hub. This is accessed through the **main entrance on Allaway Avenue**. Please do not confuse this with the Paulsgrove Hub by the Cheltenham Road entrance, this is not linked to the school.

Please wear a face mask and ensure 2m social distancing when on the school site. **Remember do not come to school if you have symptoms of Covid-19 or anyone in your house has tested positive or is awaiting the results from a test.**

## Other Available Support

We understand that many families are struggling at the moment because of the pandemic and the affect this has had on incomes. Here is some information on the other support we can provide. If there is anything else you need, do please get in contact with us via the school office and we will see what we can do.

### Food

Vouchers for Free School Meal children have been distributed. These last up until half term, when new ones will be issued. If you have not received yours or are not sure if you should be getting one, please contact the school office and they will let you know.

If you think your child may be entitled to free school meals, you can apply to Portsmouth City Council using their online form: <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/services/schools-learning-and-childcare/schools/school-meals/>

If your child does not receive free school meals but you are struggling, please do let us know and we will see what we can do to help.

### IT Equipment

So far, we have given out almost 72 Chromebooks to help children at home access their live lessons. If your child needs something to access live lessons on, please let us know. We would prefer the children to have proper laptops rather than phones or tablets to access live lessons so if you need a Chromebook, please let us know.

### Access to the Internet or support with electricity payments.

With everyone at home, the cost of electricity from heating and running electrical devices has increased. If you are struggling with this or need help accessing the internet, get in touch and we will see how we can help. This could be by providing sim cards, which give you free data, or through applying for grants to help with payments.