



Newsletter 5

3rd December 2020

Hello and welcome to the next newsletter from Beacon View,

There is a lot going on at Beacon View at the moment. We are continuing our push to help all children catch up after the school closure earlier in the year, we are working hard to keep everyone safe and we are trying to make sure that the children have fun and enjoy being at school to reduce their anxiety and worry about Covid-19.

School remains the best place for the children to be and we are pleased that our attendance is holding steady at around 94%. For any children that cannot attend school because they are isolating, we are inviting them to join their classes online for live lessons and this is working well. If your child has been isolating and has not heard from their class teacher about live lessons, please do contact the school and we will get this set up for you.

Thank you to all of our parents who are following the school rules to keep everyone safe on the school site. Unfortunately, there is still a steady flow of parents that are not following the rules about the wearing masks, following the one-way system and socially distancing on school site. These are our expectations and are in place to keep everyone safe. They are no different to what everyone has to do in shops. Please make sure these are followed. Thank you.

Very best wishes,
Mr Hartley, Mrs Mitchell and all at Beacon View

Are you entitled to a £30 Christmas food voucher?

Money is tight at the moment so make sure you are getting all the help you are entitled to by applying for Free School Meals (FSM). If your children are eligible, you will receive free school meals every day in school saving you £2.05 a day (£10.25 a week).

You will also get a free £30 voucher per child for the Christmas holidays.

By filling out the form we can check if you are eligible and it only takes a couple of minutes to do!

Are your children in Years R, 1 or 2?

Some parents in Years R, 1 and 2, who could be entitled to free school meals, have not been filling in the form as they know that all children in these year groups get the school meals for no charge. However, if you don't fill out the FSM form, you will miss out on the vouchers the families receive over the holidays - so it is worth checking.

Use the link below to fill out the form - a couple of minutes could get you a £30 voucher and free school meals!

<https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/services/schools-learning-and-childcare/schools/school-meals/>



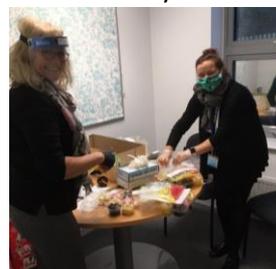
We are pleased to announce that £281.23 was raised for Children in Need. This will now be sent on to the charity from all the children and families at BV. Thank you everyone!



Birthday Celebrations



Everyone at BV loved celebrating the children's birthdays last Friday and this will now happen on the last Friday of every month. Any children who have had a birthday that month will be celebrated and receive their own little cake which will be bagged up, so it is Covid safe. Here are Mrs Davies and Mrs Liggitt preparing the cakes last Friday.





Christmas has arrived at Beacon View!



The Christmas season has arrived at Beacon View and we have lots going on to help make sure the children enjoy their time here this December.



- 1) The elves have arrived in each class. These elves appear to be nice elves rather than naughty elves but they do move around the classroom quite a bit when no one is looking!
- 2) Unfortunately, we can't hold our normal nativity play or Carol services this year but, to help all parents feel like they are able to celebrate Christmas with us and see what is happening in school, we are releasing a video from a different class each school day in December. So far, we have had Guildhall Class singing Little Donkey and Artful Class telling us festive jokes. Look out for the next video coming out on Facebook this evening.
- 3) The breakfast and afterschool club have brought in some Christmas craft activities to keep the children entertained and on the last day each class will be having a Christmas party when they will all be taking part in some Christmas craft in the morning.



Other events happening this month

- This Friday (Friday 4th December) - **Christmas Elf Day** - Children can come to school dressed as a Christmas Elf. This is to support the Alzheimer's Society. There will be buckets out the front of the school in the morning to collect any donations. These are not required but any amount, however small, is appreciated.
- Friday 11th December - **Christmas Jumper Day** – Children come to school wearing a Christmas jumper. This is to support Save the Children. There will be buckets at the front of the school in the morning to collect any donations. These are not required but any amount, however small, is appreciated.
For the days mentioned above, if you don't have a Christmas jumper or elf-like clothing, don't worry, the children can wear a Christmas costume (as long as it is warm and sensible), something red, white or green or their school uniform.
- Wednesday 16th December – **Christmas dinner day** – Everyone in uniforms as normal please
- Friday 18th December – **Christmas party day** – Non-school uniform is allowed, preferably Christmas clothing!

Keeping everyone safe this Christmas season



- 1) **Christmas Cards.** The children love giving and receiving Christmas cards and they need to be able to do this. We need to manage this to avoid cards going across bubbles and spreading germs so we have introduced the Beacon View Christmas Post Box (see picture above). Cards can be added to the box each Monday and Tuesday. They will then be quarantined for the rest of the week before being given out on a Friday.
- 2) **Christmas Presents.** Some families have asked about the rules for giving staff Christmas presents this year. Gifts for staff are not expected but we know some families like to give small tokens of their appreciation for all the hard work put in by staff. If you want to do this, you can give your teachers a small gift. They will be advised to wash their hands after opening them and quarantine them at school for 72 hours before taking them home. If you would like to show your appreciation to a member of staff at school but don't want to give a gift, you can always complete a *thank a teacher* form using the link below. These are completely free and organised by the Department for Education.

<https://thankateacher.co.uk/thank-a-teacher/thank-a-teacher-form/>

Coronavirus News Update



As you will know, the country is now out of the latest lockdown and Portsmouth is in Tier 2 which means 'High Alert'. To help everyone understand the rules for Tier 2, we have emailed all parents a useful poster that explains the rules. This can also be found on our website by going to:

https://www.beaconviewprimary.co.uk/Portals/0/COVID-19_Tier_Posters_2020_Final_High_Print.pdf

We are working on version 14 of the risk assessment and this will be updated on the website by the end of the week.

Please email the school at Covid@beaconviewprimary.co.uk if you need to let us about anything related to Covid. Please remember to include the full name of any children you have at the school and your contact details within this email.

Please remember that if anyone in the household is waiting for test results or has tested positive, everyone in that household needs to isolate and any children cannot come to school. If you are unsure, feel free to phone the office and check the rules.

We are looking at ways to make things easier for our parents and one has suggested that we go back to using the playgrounds at the end of the day to help separate out bubbles a bit more. We think this is a good idea. We just now need to think about how this is going to work for our youngest children and for those parents with more than one child at the school. Once we have sorted this out, we will let you know and any changes will start in January. If you have any more suggestions, please let us know.

Have you recently been made redundant or do you need help finding another job or training?

Solent Employment Program is being run by Portsmouth City Council to help support the local communities when they are out of work. It provides support to help get people back into paid employment. This could help lots of people this year as we know a lot of families are struggling.

This program is voluntary and FREE.

Anyone who joins is given personal support from their Employment Adviser. They can help with things like:

- CV writing
- Training courses
- Help reviewing current job search techniques and improving upon these
- Finding childcare options
- Help with looking at all transferable skills to open up other career avenues
- Introducing clients to employers through our links across the region

The aim of the program is to help the person progress at their pace to feel more confident and to find the right job for them.

If this sounds like something that could help you or someone you know, please contact us directly to have a conversation about what we could offer you by calling Kathy Denham on 07940 537763 Or emailing kathy.denham@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Get in touch

Please remember to visit our website, Twitter, Instagram or Facebook pages for more information about the school.



Please make sure you find the right Beacon View Primary Facebook page by searching for the *new beacon view* or going to <https://www.facebook.com/thenewbeaconview/>

If you have any other suggestions of what we could do to improve things around the school or you need help, please contact the school on school@beaconviewprimary.co.uk