



25th November 2021

Newsletter 3

Learning God's Way

Headteacher: Mr M Jee

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Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a very busy half term and the children have been exceptional while we have had to cope with some challenging circumstances due to COVID and seasonal flu. We have tried to maintain continuity for them as best we can and the staff thank you for your patience.

COVID

Today we have 72 children absent - some with COVID, some pending PCR results and some with this very bad cough and sore throat. We have 9 staff absent but have had up to a third of staff off at any one time in the last 2 weeks.

West Sussex is a COVID hotspot compared to the rest of the country and we are taking every measure possible to limit the spread of the infection. For this reason, we are minimising indoor gatherings over the Christmas period to try and ensure that children and staff do not get infected and become ill over the Christmas holidays.

It is very important that families continue to take regular lateral flow tests and if children feel unwell or have symptoms, they should stay at home pending a PCR test. Please be aware that this will have some effect on the Christmas performances and we are looking at how best to keep the Christmas spirit high whilst taking a safety first approach.

An example of this is that the Christmas Panto will still go ahead but we have asked the company to perform more times during the day so we can have fewer children and well spread out in the hall.

Start and Finish Times

Please be reminded of the times of the school day and see that children arrive on time to ensure a smooth start to the day. Please do not arrive too early (!) as the start and finish times are planned to avoid as much community contact as possible.

Dates for your



INSET Days

The school is closed for staff training on **Tuesday 4th January 2022** and **Monday 14th March 2022**.

REMEMBER

Tomorrow is a mufti day. Please make a £1.00 donation via ParentMail or bring in cash raising money initially for our Forest School.

Nativity Plays

Due to rise in numbers of COVID we are unable to have parents in school to watch nativity plays. Instead, where possible, we are filming and sharing via vimeo and on our website (password protected).

Early Years (We Three Kings) and Year 1 (The Big Little Nativity) will be filmed. We will let you know when they are available to watch. Year 2 play is being postponed until either the Spring or Summer Term. Year 5 and 6 play (Aladdin Trouble) has been postponed to the Spring Term.

Helping hands activity - who can I talk to for help

Helping hands templates will be distributed to classes in Yr3-Yr6. Ask the children to write down the names of 5 adults that they feel they could talk to if they were being bullied or had a worry. Encourage them to think about their support network at home, the community and school. Each name should go on a different finger/thumb of the hand. Children can then decorate the hand in anyway that makes them feel positive and then cut them out. Below are some examples.



Please could you create a mini tree display using the helping hands the children create. The hands can form the leaves of the tree and can be displayed in your classes or in shared year group areas. Below are some examples:



Parenting Smart



We all want the best for our children, but being a parent can be really tough, and this has been exacerbated over the past year and a half by the pandemic. Having recognised this, the children's mental health charity, Place2Be, has launched [Parenting Smart](#) for all UK parents and carers of 4-11 year olds.

The Parenting Smart site is completely free to use and access, full of tips and advice on a range of topics including transition to secondary school, meltdowns, and sleep difficulties.



Learn more at
[place2be.org.uk/
parentingsmart](https://place2be.org.uk/parentingsmart)

What is Worship like at Bishop Luffa School?

Come and make new friends

Get to know some of our staff and students

Experience a service at Bishop Luffa

Youth Worship at Bishop Luffa School

For Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 - Thursdays, 3.30pm – 5.00pm

Youth Worship starts on Thursday 4th November To book please [click on this link](#)

Farewell!

After 11 years at St Margaret's we say farewell to Mrs Collins who has accepted a post of Deputy Headteacher at a local school from January. Mrs Collins has worked in most year groups and for the past 4 years has led the Early Years Team and Infant Department. I am sure you would like to join with me in thanking her for all she has done at St Margaret's and wish her every success in her new role. I look forward to writing to parents in Oak class with news of arrangements from January.

FESTIVE MENU!
Wednesday 15th December

Chartwells
So much more than fantastic food

MAINS
£2.33
Roast Turkey or Roast Quorn Fillet

Served with Roast Potatoes, Carrots, Peas, Stuffing, a Mini Sausage and Gravy

DESSERTS
Chocolate Dipped Shortbread
Choice of Fruit

Milk, Water or Fruit Squash

DON'T FORGET! SCHOOL MEALS ARE FREE FOR ALL PUPILS IN RECEPTION, YEAR 1 OR YEAR 2.

Alternatively, you can order now until the 5th December at www.mealselector.co.uk
or contact 73041@compass-group.co.uk for help and information.



Congratulations to our Year 6 House Captains:

Red House : Sophie B and Finlay T
Yellow House : Amelia C and Danny D
Green House : Martha R and Max H
Blue House : Megan F and Jacob W

Well done!



Yours sincerely,
Mike Jee
Headteacher