



The Bushy Bulletin



Working Together, Learning Together, Growing Together

14th January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2022! Although it seems a very long time ago now, I hope you all had time to enjoy your holiday and that it wasn't too affected by COVID. The children have returned eager to learn and have had a good couple of weeks. Lots in the diary for this term to look forward to, so please take note of the dates on the attached sheet.

Following some feedback in regard to the newsletter, I have adapted it to be written in this format with a separate 'Dates for the Diary' page. Please let me know if you have any other feedback with regards to communication in general, or specifically the newsletter.

A reminder that any letters, returned slips etc. should be posted in the Post Box outside the school office.

School Values

A reminder of our values: Caring, Respect, Integrity, Perseverance and Aspiration

This term we will be focussing on the value of '**Caring**' - thank you for all the hands! I have enjoyed reading these as they are prepared for display in the hall.

Aspiration: for our half term focus on Aspiration in the Spring Term, it would lovely for the children to hear about (and possibly see in an assembly), successes that our past pupils have achieved. It could be a job role, sporting achievement, personal goal realised etc. Please let me know if you, your older children or others you know who went to Bushy would be happy to speak/send in information to share.

Stationery

Please check that your child has a fully stocked pencil case. We have a stationery shop available each Friday during drop off with very reasonably priced items. Teachers are having to use their own resources to support children, which is not sustainable.

Chinese New Year

This will be celebrated on 1st February this year. With so many families in our school with Chinese heritage, I would welcome any input into celebrating this day with the whole school and community. If anyone has any ideas or would like to get involved/lead an assembly/work with children etc., please get in touch.

COVID

There are still cases in the community, so please take note of the advice shared. The updated flowchart sent out on 11th January provides clear guidance.



A message from our Community Wardens

We are trialling a gardening project in Merrow this Spring! We would be happy to hear your thoughts and ideas as key local community stakeholders on what would be well received in the area.

“Through our work in the community, we have become aware that a large majority of residents struggle to maintain their gardens. This may be due to various factors, e.g. mobility, ill health, isolation or lack of resources. We are keen to establish a gardening network of volunteers within the wards of Guildford, we would like to begin by piloting this in Merrow and if successful we could then branch out to become Borough wide over time.

We are looking for a strong volunteer base in Merrow, of those who enjoy gardening and would like to help those in their communities. It would be a fantastic opportunity to meet new people, give back to your community and benefit your own wellbeing, whilst enjoying time outdoors.

We are hoping for the project to run in the Springtime, with a whole week dedicated to gardening at different residents properties in Merrow. Once we have a good understanding of how many volunteers are involved, we can then make a realistic decision of how many residents we can support.

If you or anyone you know are interested in getting involved or would like to find out more.

Child Protection and Safeguarding

Free Parent Online Safety Workshops:

<https://www.stem.org.uk/cpd/ondemand/491521/teach-computing-reach-and-engagement-event-bespoke-support-short-course>

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[What is Genshin Impact?](#)

[Self-Care Plan \(Anna Freud Centre\)](#)



Infographic: Building resilience in children and teens (Family Lives)

The Family Lives charity aims to offer all parents somewhere to turn before they reach crisis point. Crisis support, provided for over 40 years through their helpline, has always been at the heart of what they do.

Family Lives also have an excellent website to help parents with the ups and downs of family life. One useful infographic is this one about building resilience in children and teens. You can download it here: <https://www.familylives.org.uk/advice/your-family/wellbeing/building-resilience-in-children-and-teens/>

The Family Lives parents' helpline is available Monday to Friday, 1.30 - 9pm on 0800 800 2222. The website can be found here: <https://www.familylives.org.uk/>

The things I wish my parents had known...about online sexual harassment (Children's Commissioner)

The Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza DBE, has recently published a guidance document for parents helping to support them to understand online sexual harassment. It is a sensitive topic, and not one all parents feel comfortable discussing with their children. The commissioner's team brought together a group of 16 - 21 year olds and asked them talk about what they think parents should know, and what they should say to their children when talking about sexualised bullying and the pressures of growing up online.

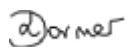
Key advice from the young adults in the focus groups included:

- Start conversations early, before your child gets a phone or social media account. Keep the conversation going over time, adapting to your child.
- Young people want their parents to learn about new technology and trends, including risky behaviours and dangerous spaces online.
- Create a safe and trusting home environment. Young people told us the home environment is key, they want to share things with their parents but don't always feel able.

The report and poster 'The things I wish my parents had known...' can be downloaded here: <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/report/talking-to-your-child-about-online-sexual-harassment-a-guide-for-parents/>

Have a lovely weekend!

Best wishes



Mrs L. Dormer
Head Teacher