



4th September 2020

Learning and Achieving through
Love, Courage and Respect

Dear parents and carers,

We would like to wish everyone a **very warm welcome** back to school. We hope that you all had a wonderful summer. It was lovely to see everyone once again on Thursday, with lots of smiling faces and friendly greetings from all the children and families. The children loved seeing their friends again, and they have settled back into the school routines really well. Some of them may struggle with the long school day after not having experienced it fully since March, and we are mindful of that; therefore, lessons are shorter, with lots of opportunities for physical activities, brain breaks and fresh air. In fact, lots of lessons have been taking place outside to help with this. As part of the lessons planned, teachers and LSAs are identifying where the children are with their knowledge, understanding and skills, and planning learning opportunities accordingly, to enable children to close any gaps, consolidate any previous learning and address any misconceptions, as well as providing further challenge where needed. If you have any concerns about your child's learning and progress, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

There is also a big focus on **wellbeing**, both within everyday lessons as well as through specialised wellbeing and PSHE lessons. We would like to introduce our new PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) programme called **Jigsaw**. As they state on their website, 'Jigsaw is a unique, spiral, progressive and effective scheme of work, aiming to prepare children/young people for life, helping them really know and value who they are and understand how they relate to other people in this ever-changing world'. This was introduced this week, by Mrs Aram (our PSHE/RSE lead) through two special Collective Worship sessions (in our bubbles) in which the children found out about their class cat, the chime bar and the puzzle pieces. See if your child can tell you about their class cat and what the cat's name is!

As you know, schools have to put lots of health and safety measures in place to comply with the regulations and guidance from the DfE. A **risk assessment** has been in place since the initial school closures in March, which is regularly updated following updates from the government. The most up-to-date risk assessment will be on the school website by the end of today (on the Covid page). However, please be aware that this will be updated when needed, according to government updates.

Thank you for your understanding regarding the **one-way system** and the social distancing measures. We know that it is a tricky time, and we are trying to make everything as manageable as possible for you while still ensuring that we follow the regulations and advice. As mentioned before, we will monitor the arrangements and let you know any changes when applicable.

I would like to say a big thank you to the BSA (especially Lucy Brodie) for organising the wonderful Round the Island Relay **Race**, which is on Saturday 12th September. This takes place every year and we are very fortunate in being able to run it this year (excuse the pun). This is a running race against Nine Acres Primary School, in which a range of parents, grandparents, older children and members of staff take part, raising funds for our school. If you would like to sponsor the Brighstone Team, please see Lucy Brodie or visit the BSA's Facebook page for more information:

https://en-gb.facebook.com/brighstoneschoolassociation/?ref=page_internal

To be more **environmentally friendly**, as well as to reduce the amount of paper transferring between school and home, thereby minimising the possibility of transferring the virus, we will be sending as many letters, newsletters, topic webs and forms etc via email. These will also be available on our website. If you would like to request a paper copy of any of these, please let the school or your child's teacher know. We have set up new **email addresses** for each class; more information below.

Before I sign off, I would like to **thank you** for all your kind words of support and congratulations - they mean a lot. We have a fantastic team here at Brighstone, as well as wonderful children and families, and I feel very privileged to be the headteacher of Brighstone Primary School.

Many thanks, and I hope you all have a lovely weekend!
Mrs Lennon and the Brighstone Team

Communication

With our new system for drop off and collection; to ease congestion and aid social distancing we are asking that, if you need to speak to your child's teacher, you email them rather than speak to them at the classroom door. If a conversation is needed, the teacher can call you. If you wish to contact your child's teacher directly, please use the class email as below.

ainslie@brighstoneprimary.org.uk
lambert@brighstoneprimary.org.uk
robertson@brighstoneprimary.org.uk
macarthur@brighstoneprimary.org.uk
clover@brighstoneprimary.org.uk

Alternatively, you can still contact the school office:
office@brighstoneprimary.org.uk

Social distancing during drop off and collection

Thank you for your support and understanding with this so far. We are doing our best to avoid having to introduce staggered start and finish times. Therefore, we ask that you do not congregate once you have dropped off or collected your child/ren so that other parents can move through and leave the school site safely.

Parents may choose to drop their child/ren off to the member of staff on the gate and leave them to enter the school by themselves. There is always a member of staff on the playground to welcome them.

At the end of the school day for children in years 5 and 6, if you have filled out a "permission to walk home unaccompanied" form, we will let your child leave the classroom at 2.45pm.

Gates are open:
8.10am - 8.25am
2.35pm - 2.45pm

Birthdays

The classes sometimes receive some very generous goodies when it's a child's birthday (e.g. cake, sweets, mini gift bags). This is extremely kind of you (**although there is certainly no expectation of this**). Due to COVID-19, we want to be careful about items passing between home and school, but we don't want to stop the children from sharing any generous birthday goodies. Therefore, we ask that any cakes are brought into school in their original packaging, and that any items (including food) are brought in two days before your child's birthday so we can put them to one side for 48 hours in line with our risk assessment. Also, whoever handles the items (in school and at home) will wash or sanitize their hands before handling them. To add to this, even though whole school Golden Worship isn't allowed to take place, birthdays will still be celebrated in bubbles, and cards will still be handed out. The member of staff handing out the cards will ensure that their hands are washed before handling them. We thank you for your understanding in this matter, as well as thanking you for your generosity!

Sports News

Over the summer holidays, some of our children have joined former pupils by playing cricket at Cowes Cricket Club with Mr Goldsmith.

Alfie L has continued to develop his skills in the softball training, whilst Austin and Ettienne began hardball training, and are now important members of the Under 11 team, with Austin becoming the team's new wicket-keeper.

The children attended training sessions every Friday, with the older children having at least one game every week against other clubs, all following the new COVID-19 guidelines for cricket!

Important Paperwork

Next week, Mrs Pelosi in the office is sending home various forms so that we can ensure that all information we have is correct. The forms that need to be completed and returned by **Friday 11th September** are:

Date collection - pale yellow
Photographic permission sheet - blue
EV3 - orange
Free School Meal application - white

