

# Begbrook News

## **Covid-19, Begbrook Style!**

We are well on the way through our first term and, despite all the changes that have been put in place due to Covid-19, the things that make our school brilliant are still going strong. The children are happy, they are once again engaging and learning really well in an exciting curriculum, they are enjoying being back with their friends and are building stronger relationships than ever, and they have all settled into their new classes with their new teachers. We are so proud of all of them - Covid-19 is not going to stop us doing what we do best!

We have had an incredibly busy start to the year. Last Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>, we were visited by Ofsted as part of an Interim Visit trial. This was a very different experience to a normal Ofsted inspection. They were not here to grade the school or provide any judgements. Instead, they met with the Principal Team and members of our Inclusion Team to ask us questions relating to how the school was managing the return to full-time education for its pupils. As this was part of a trial, we were also able to give feedback on the types of questions that should be asked at future Interim Visits. At the end of the visit, we were given a summary of the main points that would, had it not been a trial visit, have been shared with the community. This is what they said:

- *The school opened to all pupils on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September after a staggered start.*
- *School attendance is 95.1% and this is lower than usual.*
- *All pupils attending are studying a full curriculum.*
- *Checks on phonics knowledge have taken place to enable teachers to close gaps*
- *Checks on knowledge in other areas have enabled teachers to close gaps here too*
- *Teachers have adapted the curriculum to ensure knowledge that has been missed has been caught up.*
- *In maths and science in particular, teachers have adapted their teaching so that all pupils can catch up in all aspects of learning that they missed during the period of school closure*
- *Leaders are using remote learning where appropriate to support pupil's education*

We were very pleased with how well the visit went and feel confident that we have the right measures and support in place during this incredibly difficult time.

In order to ensure that we are all helping to keep each other as safe as possible, and to avoid unnecessary bubble closures, we would like to remind you of a few things. So here is our Nag List!

1. We are trying to limit the number of items being brought to and from school. Essential items such as lunch boxes and water bottles are of course allowed, however items such as Pokémon cards, teddies or small transitional objects must be kept at home.
2. It is really important that your child brings a labelled water bottle into school every day.
3. Please try and arrive promptly for your starting time at the beginning of the school day but not early. We have a staggered start to help us to reduce the number of adults on the school site at any one time. If you arrive early and gather in groups on the school site, this does not help us to maintain social distancing.
4. Finally, can we ask for your support in ensuring that you leave the school site as quickly as possible at the end of the school day. We have noticed groups of children from various bubbles playing together at the end of the day whilst they wait for their parents to be ready to leave. We are working so hard to keep children in their bubbles all day so we would really appreciate your help in maintaining this at the end of the day.

Lastly, thank you so much for all your kind feedback and support. We are so happy to have all the children back in school.

*Mr Munro, Mrs Hine and Mrs Shaw*

## PTFA Corner



Hello from the PTFA! We are delighted to be back and, although at the moment the PTFA won't be able to do all the usual physical events and fund raisers that we have previously, we're still planning ways to create fun community events and raise money to be spent on Begbrook's students and the school environment.

We're very keen for new people to join the PTFA Committee and will soon be advertising an open meeting, where anyone can ask questions online about getting involved – all parents, carers and grandparents are invited! On the committee we all juggle our time between working and families, but being part of the PTFA Committee is really rewarding and a great way to help build community between all of our families.

There have been so many changes to the school day for the children but we know they are all coping really well. We have been asked by the Principal Team to help to make the children's time at school even more enjoyable, especially at play times and at Breakfast and After School Clubs. The children currently have tubs of resources that can be shared by class bubbles for use during these times, however, resources are limited and so we were hoping some of you may be able to help...

If you have any of the following items at home that you would be happy to permanently donate to our school, they would really appreciate it.

<b>Playing cards</b>	<b>Chess sets</b>	<b>Board games</b>	<b>Top trump cards</b>
<b>Card games e.g. Uno, snap</b>		<b>Skipping ropes</b>	<b>Skittles</b>
<b>Bean bags</b>	<b>Rubix cubes</b>	<b>Dominoes</b>	<b>Puzzles (with all the pieces!)</b>
<b>Small world toys e.g. cars/vehicles, animals, dinosaurs,</b>			<b>Duplo/Lego</b>

Please bring items in on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September or Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at the start of the day and place on the tables by the main gate.

If you are unable to donate games or toys, but would like, and are able, to make a monetary donation so that we can purchase some new resources, please visit the PTFA JustGiving page, labelling your donation with the word 'Toys' so we know that is how you would like us to spend the money:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/begbrookptfa>

We really hope that we can all pull together to provide our children with some wonderful resources. Thank you in advance for your help and support. As always, if you need to get in touch, feel free to drop us an email: [PTFA@bpa.cabot.ac.uk](mailto:PTFA@bpa.cabot.ac.uk). Don't forget to check us out on: [facebook.com/Begbrook](https://www.facebook.com/Begbrook)

PTFA

### Parking

We know that it can get extremely busy outside the school and in the surrounding roads at drop off and collection times. Please remember to park considerately and keep driveways free at all times so that our residents can have access. The Begbrook Social Car Park is just a 4 minute walk away and there are always spaces to park. We would also like to ask that you are considerate with your language at these key points of the day and be mindful that children are around.

### Attendance

If your child has one of the following symptoms:

- A new and continuous cough
- A temperature
- A loss of sense of smell or taste

We know that children will be getting the normal coughs, colds and sniffles that are common at this time of year. If you are at all unsure as to whether to send your child in, please contact the school to discuss this.

## Garden Committee update

While we were away, brilliant parents in the Garden Committee were busy continuing to improve the outside space supported with PTFA funds. The start of the new garden near Y6, including the willow dome and ping pong table, all look brilliant – thank you! The children have thoroughly enjoyed playing with the ping pong table this week. Check out the photos on the photo board below to see it for yourself.

We know there's more to come and we can't wait to see how it develops over time.

## Opal Power

Opal Power is our newest Gem Power and it was designed to support the staff and children in ensuring that we follow the rules in our risk assessment in a child-friendly way.

Opal Power is:

- I keep a safe distance from others
- I use catch it, bin it, kill it to stop germs spreading
- I clean my hands and surfaces carefully and often
- I only play with the children in my bubble
- I follow adult instructions on where I need to go

## Staying safe online

Online safety is more important, now more than ever, as we are having to communicate with our friends and family online. We also know that there may come a time when children are having to be completing distance learning from home. Therefore, it is vital that we keep having conversations around staying safe online.

To support, please find a link to a website called Internet Matters: <https://www.internetmatters.org/> This website is designed to support parents with children, whatever their age, to find out more about what your children might be doing online and give you some simple, practical and easy advice on the steps you can take as a parent to keep them as safe as possible. It features guides, latest articles and expert Q&A discussions.



Diary Dates



ALL DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

DATE	EVENT
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> September	First Academy Review Visit by CLF Executive Team
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> September	PTFA toy donation – drop off <u>stations</u> tbc
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	PTFA toy donation – drop off <u>stations</u> tbc
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> October	Flu vaccinations
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	INSET day – staff will be attending the CLF Conference
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	INSET day – staff will be attending training at school

### Term Dates 2020/21

- Term 1: Tues 1<sup>st</sup> September – Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> October
- Term 2: Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> November – Fri 18<sup>th</sup> December
- Term 3: Mon 4<sup>th</sup> January – Fri 12<sup>th</sup> February
- Term 4: Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> February – Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> April
- Term 5: Mon 19<sup>th</sup> April – Fri 28<sup>th</sup> May
- Term 6: Mon 7<sup>th</sup> June – Wed 21<sup>st</sup> July

### INSET DAYS

- INSET 1 – Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September
- INSET 2 – Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September
- INSET 3 – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October
- INSET 4 – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October
- INSET 5 – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January
- INSET 6 – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July (TBC)

# Begbrook Photo Board



Y2 had a mysterious visitor named Beegu arrive in school. Beegu got a warm welcome and the children enjoyed writing about her!



Y3 loved their unit on the characteristics of insects. They made their own insects from clay and natural objects.



Y6 children have been learning about the Linnaeus Classification system. Here, as artists, they are creating collages of invertebrates.



Y2 have highlighted the bone structures on their face with face paint as part of their 'We are artists' unit on Boris Schmitz.



Children in Y6 have really enjoyed the new Ping Pong table – thank you so much to the garden committee for setting it up!



Celebration assemblies can't happen in the hall so we have them on the interactive boards in class instead! Y5 are joining in well here.