

Bures Primary CEVC School and Nursery

Update for the Parish Councils – May 2020

As the Nation continues in lockdown mode for now, let me give you a brief overview of what has been happening school-side, since I last wrote.

Following an informal consultation process, the Governors have decided to close the Nursery class and raise the lower age range of the School from three to four years. This will take effect from 1st September 2020.

We received ten responses to the consultation which were shared with all Governors. The majority of parents who responded expressed sorrow at the proposed decision and were reluctant to see the Nursery closed as they felt it had played an important part in their child's educational journey.

Many were also keen to tell us how valued our Nursery Staff Team are and how grateful they were for Mrs Wilcox and Mrs Manning's support and dedication. It was suggested that asking for parental contributions may be a way to keep the Nursery open but it was agreed that parental contributions would have to be considerable to meet the financial shortfall and it may also prevent children from low income households from attending the provision.

Since 20th March, the School has remained open, even throughout the Easter holiday, under the auspices of our "Critical Workers Club" and we are immensely grateful to our dedicated staff for making this happen. Daily numbers have varied from a handful up to nearly 20 children and many different activities have been enjoyed, including Joe Wicks workouts, constructing and testing balloon-powered Lego cars and making homemade bread, butter and soup.

For the children and families at home, a range of paper-based and online learning activities are being provided for pupils with teachers able to communicate with families using the safe and secure Seesaw App. Wellbeing and safety messages are also regularly conveyed. Access to Food Vouchers for eligible families has also been established.

Sadly, the front garden refurbishment is currently on hold, but we hope this can be resumed later this term. However, we are very pleased with the completion of the first part of the project creating a quiet patio area. We are particularly glad to have been able to save the named millennium bricks which have now been laid together in one place where there will be less footfall to protect them for future generations to enjoy.

Before the lockdown we did manage to hold a Parent Governor election. Mr Hammett was the successful candidate and we look forward to welcoming him to our first virtual meeting to be held later this month.

Hopefully before long we shall be able to start thinking about a phased return to school for the children, but in the meantime we stay safe, supporting our community as best we can.

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Tim Fairbairn
Chair of Governors
4 May 2020