

BERKELEY PRIMARY SCHOOL



If children are happy, they will achieve!

Friday 15th January 2021

Welcome to term 3! Well, it this is not the most conventional welcome to the new term we would have liked. The start to this term has not been without its challenges; a broken boiler when the weather was at its coldest this month; no internet at school and no printer for the first two days, a burst pipe, and...a last minute announcement for another lockdown! But, we are all still smiling, and quickly managing to adapt to a new (temporary) way of working.

Staff news: We welcome two new teachers to the school this term. Mrs Lawday is our new Deputy Headteacher and Year 5 class teacher, and Miss Heward is our new Year 1 teacher. The team are helping them get to grips with everything, and they have been fabulous this week, coping under remarkable pressure, and learning how to use every system in place for remote learning and beyond.

Thank you parents and children: I want to say a HUGE thank you to you all at home, who have, like us, had to adapt very quickly to remote learning, no doubt adjusting your lives to fit everything in. We know first-hand (as many of us are parents too) just how difficult this is, and we thank you so very much for helping your children get the best from their learning. Please do know that we are here for you, should you need any questions answering or any support. Don't struggle alone. If you find yourself screaming at the laptop more often than not, give us a call, and we can do our very best to help. A top tip from me: do not compare yourself to others! Do what works for you, and what is best for your family. We have issued laptops to families who identified a need for them last term in our survey. If your circumstances have changed since then, and you urgently require a device, please email admin@berkeley.gloucs.sch.uk and we will endeavour to help you.

Remote learning: We got off to a flying start with remote learning, and have added in some live learning and daily story sessions this time too. We review this weekly, and will make tweaks to improve wherever needed. Your constructive feedback is really helpful to us, and as such, I will send a short survey out soon in order to help us ensure we can try and make our remote learning the very best it can be for our school community. Thank you so much to all the families who took the time to write to Ofsted last week to tell them how well BPS were doing with remote learning. We have received so many notifications of these, and I cannot tell you just how much that means to the entire staff here. It really cements our community school in the spirit we have worked hard to create. We are overwhelmed with gratitude for all the kindness you have shown and shared. Thank you.

Keyworker thanks: Thank you to all the Keyworkers who continue to work through this pandemic, even though you may have worries of your own, and changes to your own family dynamics. We have been able to cater for all families for keyworkers who needed provision, which is fantastic, and means that we are all doing our part to help stop the spread of this virus. Special mention has to go out to staff on the frontline in the NHS right now. This is a time like no other in our lifetimes, and what you are doing is truly remarkable. Thank you!

BFG news: This pandemic isn't stopping our BFG! The BFG met virtually on Monday evening, and discussed lots of fun events for the children (and families). We decided not to focus on raising funds this term due to very testing times for all, but rather to focus on raising spirits! Therefore, we have launched the #brightenupberkeley event on our social media, and invite as many of you as possible to join in to spread happiness and hope in our community. We have more fun events planned too; details shall be revealed in due course!

Outdoor library: Next week, we will be setting up an outdoor library where children can change their reading books weekly, safely and at a social distance. Please see the attached for more information.

Headteacher assemblies: Celebration assemblies are back! From next Friday 22nd January, I will be leading two assemblies. **Infants (Reception, Y1 and Y2) at 1pm and Juniors (Y3-Y6) at 2pm.** These will be done via zoom, and links will be sent out by class teachers on Thursday evening via purple mash with the children's learning. These assemblies will be to highlight outstanding effort & achievement from the week, as nominated by staff, and to share work children are really proud of too. As with all new things, we will see how it goes on Friday and make necessary tweaks as we go on. I look forward to seeing as many children as possible. (If this time clashes with a class story time, teachers will adapt accordingly)

Anyone remember Christmas?



We loved this experience with the children. Magical!

With very best wishes

Miss Robbins and all the team here at Berkeley Primary

The BFG Presents

**BRIGHTEN UP
berkeley**



-  Make a sun and put it in your window
-  Write a message of hope, kindness and/or gratitude
-  This could be a general message or, to a family member, friend or someone in the community
-  See how many you can find on your daily walk
-  Take a photo and upload to social media using the hashtags below to spread the happy

#BRIGHTENUPBERKELEY
#SPREADTHEHAPPY
#HAPPYCOMMUNITYVIBES



BERKELEY PRIMARY SCHOOL OUTDOOR LIBRARY



Last Lockdown, we had feedback that children missed 'real' books, so this time, we are going to set up an 'Outdoor Library' for them to change their books once a week.

Children in this group only	Book change times: 10am-12pm
Siblings at BPS Surname A-K	Tuesday
Siblings at BPS Surname L-Z	Wednesday
Only Child at BPS Surname A-H	Thursday
Only Child at BPS Surname i-z	Friday

- 🌈 Class teachers will tell the children which colour they need to select and how many books to take each week.
- 🌈 Your child must find their colour, and select their new book (s) from the box in the parent shelter
- 🌈 Please return used books in the boxes provided which will be clearly labelled (this is very important as we will have to quarantine these books in line with our risk assessment, before they can go to other households)
- 🌈 Please encourage your child to enter the library without you, unless they are very young and need you with them. 1 adult to accompany child and remain outside the gate where possible.
- 🌈 Please adhere to all social distancing rules and wear a mask on school grounds
- 🌈 Book change day will be the same every week
- 🌈 Please only come on the allocated day for your group to avoid overcrowding so we can minimise possible transmissions
- 🌈 We do not have an abundance of books, so please do return books weekly, and any others you may have at home
- 🌈 There will also be some extra books for further reading for pleasure if your child would like more
- 🌈 We hope the children enjoy their reading with real books, and hope to be able to keep this system going throughout the lockdown for them

