



Being the best we can be

# Bramble's

## News



22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

### Message from Mrs Gynn

I hope you find the information in this newsletter useful, during these strange times. My best wishes to you all for a happy and safe weekend.

I shall begin this week's letter with a Covid-19 update for you. Unfortunately, as I am sure you are aware, the situation is very worrying. For that reason, I would like to try to ensure that children accessing Critical Worker schooling is kept to a minimum. The safety of the teachers and children is of paramount importance and having high numbers of both children and staff in school increases the risks of contracting Coronavirus. There is also a concern that staff will begin to struggle to provide online learning whilst also attending to 30% of our children in school.

I do realise how very challenging home schooling is, but I can assure you that the situation now is far more worrying than it was during the first wave of the pandemic. Hospitals are struggling to cope with the fast rise in Coronavirus cases, and Northamptonshire now has one of the highest rates in the region. Lucy Wightman, the director of Public Health Northamptonshire, informs us; *"The situation is going from bad to worse. Northamptonshire is in the worst position in the East Midlands. We are now in a situation of exponential growth which, if left unchecked, will undoubtedly lead our NHS services being overwhelmed. We have just passed 1,000 coronavirus-related deaths in the county, positive rates are at an all-time high - higher than that seen in March and amongst the highest regionally. Unfortunately, the new mutant strain has also arrived in our county."*

The new strain of the virus is far more transmissible. What compounds the matter is that a third of cases are asymptomatic, so spread can occur unwittingly. It is therefore, sensible to be mindful of what Professor Whitty, the Chief medical officer had to say this week; *'every interaction you have could be a link in a chain of transmission, which has a vulnerable person at the end.'*

In light of the rapid rise in cases and unprecedented pressure on the NHS, the government changed its advice last week, regarding critical worker children and schooling. The Department for Education now advises that where Key Workers can work from home, they should do so, and keep children away from school on those days. I realise that this will not be feasible for all, but where possible, I encourage you to try and follow this advice. The more we all reduce our children's time mixing in school, the fewer the transmission chains we make for the virus. I therefore urge you to look at your own personal circumstances. In whatever job role you do,

The core question should be, 'how can I keep my children at home?'

The restriction of schooling is unprecedented in our lifetimes and reflects the severity of the measures needed. It clearly has huge implications for the working lives of parents of our school. However, if we do not collectively recognise the severity and urgency of this crisis and collectively act in the spirit of the lockdown, our public services will fail. If rates do not fall, harsher rules set by the government are likely, tragically there will be more deaths and restrictions will be in place for longer.

The partnership we have with parents is strong and supportive, which allows us to work with you to support your children in the best ways that we can. We need your support more than ever at the moment.

### A note about remote learning

You are doing a fabulous job. We have seen another increase in engagement this week, which is wonderful. Take a look at page 3 to see who our remote learning champions are this week.

All staff are working so very hard to assist you, I do hope that you are feeling supported. Please do remember that we are all here to help in any way that we can. With that in mind, if your child is finding something tricky, please share this with staff and they will be able to suggest a different way of doing it.

If you are struggling with limited devices at home, please do make use of our loaning system. We have a small supply of **keyboards, mice and magnifiers** for your use. These will be loaned to you, on a first come first served basis.



The magnifiers will really help you and your child, if you are using a mobile phone to access the learning. As you can see from the photo, it enlarges the content so that it is much easier to see.

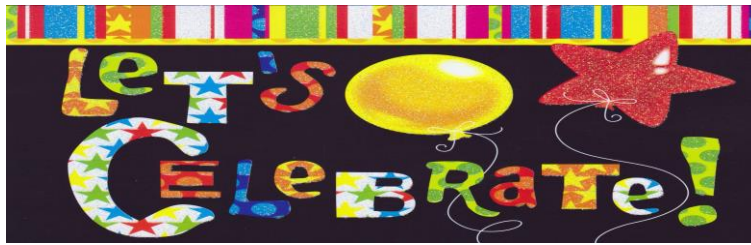
Do contact the school office if you are in need of any of this equipment.

Some of the children have already taken part in 'Challenge Tuesday' and 'Super Story Teller'. Do look out for this next week, we are hoping that your children will find it fun and interesting to take part in.



I hope your children have enjoyed receiving a phone call this week. If a call comes through with no caller ID, it will almost certainly be a member of staff. Please do accept the call. We would like to give all of the children a chance to talk to the adults in their classroom. If you have a preference for the time of the day for the call, please let staff know and they shall do their best to ring at that time.





Certificates have been awarded to:

**Exploring  
the World**

Super history,  
geography or  
religious  
education work

**Thomas H  
& Aaron -  
at home**

**Let's  
Investigate**

Fantastic maths  
or science work

**Andy - at  
home**

**Express  
Yourself**

Wonderful art,  
design  
technology,  
music or P.E.  
work

**Maya - in  
school**

**World of  
Words**

Great reading,  
writing, speaking  
and listening or  
drama work

**Oliver B -  
at home  
Radu - in  
school**

**Being Your  
Best**

**Edgar - at  
home  
Freddy K -  
in school**

**Wow!**

**Frankie-  
at home  
Freddie-  
Lee -in  
school**

**The value for  
January:**

**Caring**

**Remote Learning  
Champions!**

**The most engaged class  
this week is:**

**Well done to the  
children and  
parents too ☺**



**Dandelion Class &**



**Buttercup Class**

**Look at how amazing our school  
was**



**last week:**



**2,034 stories**

**1,904 skills celebrated**

**440 messages shared**

**100% positive feedback**



**We celebrated with:**



**Dumitru who is now 4! Edward who is now 5!  
Negithan, who is now 6!**

**Happy Birthday to you all!**

## Reminders & Notices...

### Vacancy

Do you know anyone looking for a new challenge?

We are looking to recruit a new Site Supervisor.

Please take a look at our website for details of the job role and the hours required

[www.stjamesinfant.com](http://www.stjamesinfant.com) - 'About Us' tab - 'vacancies'

Or

Contact the school office for an application pack

Closing date is: 1<sup>st</sup> February at 12.00 p.m.



During the national lockdown, everyone is asked to stay home.

### The four reasons you ARE allowed to leave home



Shopping for food or medicine



Exercise for yourself or pets alone or with members of your household only



Medical appointments or as a carer visiting a vulnerable person



Travel to and from work for essential workers only



### Technology at home

Are you using a play-station or xbox to access home learning resources?

If yes - we now have a limited supply of keyboards and mice for loan.

Are you using a mobile phone to access home learning resources?

If yes - we now have a limited supply of magnifiers for loan.

Please contact the school office for more information.

### School uniform / ventilation

All children who are in school should be in school uniform. However, please ensure that they have layers too. We are having to keep windows open to provide plenty of ventilation which means that school is not always warm.

### Covid-19 Guidance

To all parents whose children are attending school -

Please remember that if anyone in your household is either displaying symptoms or awaiting test results, you **must not** send your child to school.