



BANWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Belong Believe Achieve

Headteacher: Mrs C Pocock

West Street, Banwell, North Somerset, BS29 6DB

Telephone: 01934 822498

Email: office@banwellprimary.co.uk

Web: www.banwellprimary.co.uk



27 November 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope everyone in your families are well at this time. I wanted write to everyone today to share various pieces of information which I hope will be useful.

Firstly, can I say a big thank you for persevering with us whilst we have navigated around a new way of doing our parents' meetings over the last couple of weeks. Technology is great when it works! I have received some very positive feedback about how these Zoom calls went so we may consider offering this as an alternative to coming in for parents' evenings in the future to those families who would prefer it.

For those parents who have children eligible to start school in September 2021 please remember that the deadline for applying is 15th January 2021. Whilst we have unfortunately not been able to offer visits into school for prospective parents this year we do have lots of information on our "Starting School in September 2021" tab of the website. Please take a look. We will also be holding a Zoom meeting in December where prospective parents will get the chance to hear more information from us and will have the chance to ask questions. More information to follow soon.

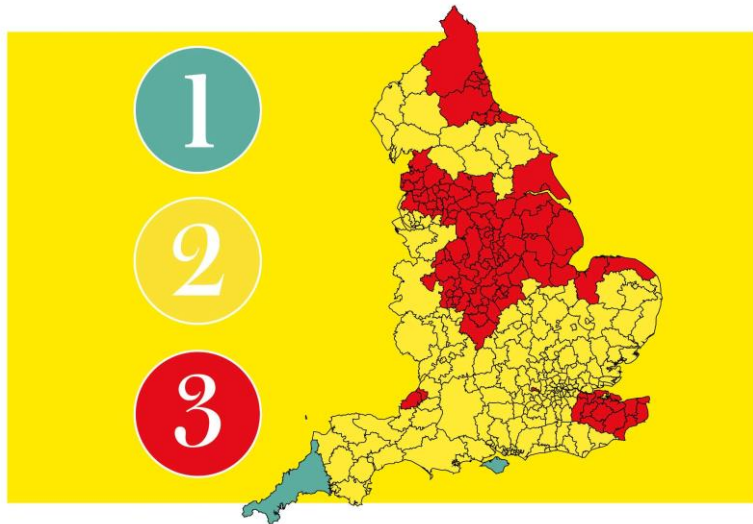
I would like to draw your attention to some videos we have uploaded to our website. On the home page you will see a video showing all of the safety measures we have in place in school during these current times. We are aware that as parents it is hard not being able to come in and see what we are doing so we hope the videos will help. We would normally enjoy welcoming parents in to share learning with their children but as you know this is not possible at the moment. However, on each class page you will see a pod video which shows not only the arrangements we have in place for that group of children but also some of the learning they have been doing. We hope you enjoy watching them!

Following Mrs Rac, one of our Teaching Assistants (TAs), leaving us recently we will be making some changes to the classes that the TAs will work in. From Monday 7th December Mrs Venn will work in Year 3, Mrs Lynam will work in Year 4 and Mrs Hackeson will move to Year 5. Mrs Swire and Mrs Gardiner will continue to work across Key Stage 1 and Reception.

COVID Updates

You will all be aware by now that from Wednesday 2nd December we will be moving into tier 3 in North Somerset. For anyone that isn't aware this is the very highest level. I am attaching a map below which illustrates the 3 tiers.





The fact we are moving into this tier needs to be taken extremely seriously and I must ask that everyone in the school community commits to keeping to the rules in order to keep everybody safe. We haven't yet had any positive cases in our school community so have not had to ask any groups to self isolate. I am however aware of many local schools who have had to do this. I am incredibly concerned that we are having reports on a regular basis that the guidance is not being followed in the local community. These reports have included groups of children playing together in the rec as well as groups of adults meeting together. Can I therefore remind everyone that current guidance states that:

You must not meet with another person socially or undertake any activities with another person. However, you can exercise or meet in a public, outdoors space with people you live with, your [support bubble](#), your [childcare bubble](#), or with one other person.

Can I also inform everyone of the key guidance which will be in place from Wednesday 2nd December :

you must not meet socially indoors or in most outdoor places with anybody you do not live with, or who is not in your support bubble, this includes in any private garden or at most outdoor venues

you must not socialise in a group of more than 6 in some other outdoor public spaces, including parks, beaches, countryside accessible to the public, a public garden, grounds of a heritage site or castle, or a sports facility – this is called the 'rule of 6'

I also need to be clear that any children who have been told to self isolate from other schools MUST NOT be on our school site at any time. Self isolation literally means stay at home and go nowhere else.

I am aware that some of our families have formed support bubbles. Again, could I make everyone aware of the official guidance regarding support bubbles:

You can form a support bubble with another household of any size that is not part of a support bubble with anyone else if you:

live by yourself – even if carers visit you to provide support

are a single adult living with children who were under 18 on 12 June 2020

Once you make a support bubble, you cannot change who is in your bubble.

As a staff we are doing our utmost to keep the children, you as parents and our colleagues safe. Please could I ask that all parents and carers do their utmost to keep us all safe too.

I will be sending information next week explaining how we will "do" Christmas in school this year. It will obviously need to be different but we will still ensure there will be lots of fun for the children.

Have a lovely weekend!

Claire Pocock

Headteacher

