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# BEAVER ROAD M20

Beaver Road Primary School  
Beaver Road  
Didsbury  
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Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We had a great week welcoming all the children back last week despite the national and local lockdown situation. This half term we look forward to various school events, so please make a note of them all and support us in keeping our school as safe and open as we possibly can.



## Health and Safety

As we have entered this new national lockdown together, we are taking some additional precautions in school to lessen the impact of COVID-19. These include:

- Shrinking the year group bubbles as much as possible so that children are in class bubbles only wherever possible.
- Ensuring minimal movement of staff between both schools. The senior leadership team will alternate between schools each week. However, there will continue to be one member of the SLT outside of school every day.
- Additional safety precautions in place for staff in school.

We would also like to ask for your support in ensuring further safety measures as the children enter and leave school each day. These include:

- Ensuring your children do not arrive early to school each day. This is a particular issue at the Junior school, where many Year 5 children are arriving 10 minutes early. This causes congestion as Year 4 and 6 children arrive at 8.30am. Year 5 must not arrive at school before 8.40am to avoid the children mixing with other classes and year groups.
- Ensuring that only one adult from the family brings the children to school and that adults wear face coverings on school premises.
- Continuing to leave the school grounds promptly after your children have been dropped off in the morning and collected at the end of each day.
- Dismounting all bikes and scooters once you enter the school grounds. This is to avoid congestion as well as to ensure there are no accidents.

## Diary dates and events

All class year group information and details of events continue to be sent to you through your child's year group staff team. These are also made available on our website and school app.

Please see below a few whole school dates and events this half term. The dates for the school year are also available on our school website



and app. These are updated regularly each half term, so please do continue to check our website and app for updates.

Whole school event dates this half term include....

- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November – Maths Week
- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November – Remembrance Day
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November – Children in Need. Non-uniform day – wear Pyjama's
- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November – Anti-bullying week – wear odd socks day
  - Road Safety week
  - Book fair arrives – details to follow
- Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner
- Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Parties – children invited to wear party clothes
- Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December – School Closes at the end of the day for Christmas holidays
- Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December – School Closed for Staff Training Day
- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2020 – School Closed for Staff Training Day
- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January – Children return to school



### Children in Need

As we support Children in Need on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November, we invite the children to attend school in their pyjamas and to give a donation towards this great charity. Thank you in advance!

### Additional Inset Day

On Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> January, we have an additional staff training day added to the calendar. This is in lieu of the staff training day at the beginning of September that was replaced by an exceptional closure day to ensure the school was prepared and ready for our full reopening to the whole school community. Therefore, please note the children will now return to school on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January after the Christmas holiday break.

### Parent Governor

There is a parent governor vacancy and we are looking for a committed parent to serve on our Governing Body. A letter will be sent out soon giving notice of the election. It will explain more about the role, how you can be nominated to stand for election, or how to nominate another parent.



### E-Safety

The internet is a wonderful resource that has helped us keep connected particularly through these unusual times. However, due to the increased amount of time our children are spending using laptops and I-pads, parents and carers need to be aware of the dangers and how we can keep our children safe online. To support families to safe guard their children, we will be producing regular E-safety guidance to help keep you updated on current themes and trends with hints, tips and checklists.



Please look out for these emails, which will be entitled 'E-Safety'. In the meantime, our website already has some really useful information, links and downloads you can explore such as safer search engines, a family agreement or advice on how to talk to your children about keeping safe. [Beaver Road E-Safety Website Page](#)

## Anti-bullying

Anti-bullying week 2020 carries the headline, 'United against bullying' and to kickstart our week of exploration, we are inviting our whole school community to wear odd socks on Monday 16th November. Odd Socks Day is designed to be fun but also nods to the important messages of freedom of expression, non-discrimination and celebrating uniqueness. As a prelude to this, the children have been looking closely at three key Articles of the UNCRC:



Anti-Bullying Week 2020: United Against Bullying



This year, more than ever, we have witnessed the positive power that society can have when we come together to tackle a common challenge.

## School Building and Grounds Improvements



Thank you for your co-operation and patience while the building works are completed at school. Unfortunately, the roof repairs at the Junior school have suffered from additional complications and the contractors are continuing to seek solutions for these as soon as possible.

The work at the First School to replace the external fencing and railings has started and we can already see the benefits this will bring. We have received some

questions about the height of the new fencing and the width of the new gates. Please be assured that these are in line with the recommended specifications schools are advised to have for safety and safeguarding of the children, as well as being in line with our planning permission. The reason we were successful with our funding bid to replace the fencing is because the old height and condition of the existing fence was not deemed as safe enough. Unfortunately, we have suffered from many intruders and vandalism over the years, as well





as concerns from parents about how low the fence is for safeguarding reasons. The entrance gates will all be wider than the old entrance gates and also meet the specifications required for the works. The main entrance gate will remain a single gate, as this will be magnetised with an intercom system fitted. In future, this gate will be locked during school hours so our whole school grounds are more secure. The entrance gate onto the KS1 playground will be a double gate for improved access to and from school.

We are delighted to report that the work to replace all the classroom and office floors at the First School has started well and is currently ahead of schedule. The Year 2 children have adapted amazingly well to their new temporary classrooms and very soon they will be moving back into their refreshed classrooms. We will then be moving to the next phase of the works. You will hear from us in more detail when it affects your child's classroom.

Whilst all this work is being carried out at the First School, we are aware that access to/from and around our school grounds is more restricted and can become more congested than previously. In order not to shorten the school day with revised and extended drop off and collection times, we are asking parents and carers to be patient and take their time when exiting the school grounds to ensure social distancing can still be adhered to. Please also ensure you do not arrive early to school for your drop off and collection time and also make sure only one adult in your household brings and collects your child. These measures will really help if they are followed. However, if this continues to be an issue, we will revise the drop off and collection times.

We have some other festive surprises for the children this half term – so please do look out for them! We are all doing our best to ensure the children have as much fun as possible during these restrictive times. If you have any further questions or queries about anything this half term, please do not hesitate to contact us via the school office.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Liz Hardy  
Executive Headteacher



**Article 2 - Non-discrimination** The Convention applies to every child without discrimination, whatever their ethnicity, gender, religion, language, abilities or any other status, whatever they think or say, whatever their family background.

**Article 12 - Respect for the views of the child** Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously. This right always applies, for example during immigration proceedings, housing decisions or the child's day-to-day home life.

**Article 19 - Protection from violence, abuse and neglect** Governments must do all they can to ensure that children are protected from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and bad treatment by their parents or anyone else who looks after them.