



**Bagshot Infant School,
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Headteacher: Miss K Aldred

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you all safe and well. I have a few updates for you this week, including one on reading books, that I hope you will find useful. Barring any unexpected announcements this will be my final newsletter before the half term break. I appreciate how hard this term has been for everyone and I hope you are all able to find some time to rest over the half term week.

Kind regards
Miss K Aldred

Reopening of Schools

I am sure you join me in feeling disappointed by the news that schools will not reopen immediately after half term. As I write to you, we await further updates on whether schools can reopen safely, and in what form, from 8th March. As soon as I receive further news from the government, I will of course let you know. In the interim could I please encourage you to follow the national guidance, stay at home, and help stop the spread of the virus.

Children's Mental Health Week

This week is *Children's Mental Health Awareness Week*. We pride ourselves, at Bagshot Infant School, on supporting children's wellbeing throughout the year but, we thought we would take the opportunity to share some ideas to support you, whilst at home in lockdown. Each day this week we will be updating our Facebook and Twitter pages with new ideas and resources, so please do take a look.

Wacky Wednesday

It was fantastic to see so many families, both at school and at home joining in with our Wacky Wednesday initiative. This *Wacky Wednesday* I have recorded a short story for the children, which will be shared via Google Classroom, showing them where we got the Wacky idea from! Please keep sending in your wacky pictures each Wednesday, via info@bagshot.surrey.sch.uk so we can add them to our Wall of Fame!

Google Classroom

I would like to thank you all for engaging so well with our remote learning platform this term. From the very many positive messages, we have received, I know that you appreciate how very hard my staff team have worked to ensure your children are supported whilst at home and at school. We continue to review our strategy and are always keen to hear what works well for you and your children and any areas we could develop further. We, like you, are learning how best to help our very young children learn, remotely. Whilst I know you appreciate there is not a *one size fits all* model that will suit every family, we are keen to review and adapt, where we have the staffing capacity to do so.

Positive COVID-19 cases

As was the case over the Christmas holiday period I have been asked to support NHS Test and Trace over the half-term break. If your child has been attending school this term and develops COVID-19 symptoms within 48hrs of being in school please email the school office on info@bagshot.surrey.sch.uk A member of staff will then be in touch with you and, as appropriate, inform close contacts to isolate. Please do not use the class email addresses as these will not be monitored over the half term break.

Reading Books

Thank you for your patience on this matter. I have been exploring safe ways to get reading books to the children and believe we have come up with a workable solution. We have been liaising with a company called Reading Chest that deliver reading books through the post. In essence it is a rental service. The school has paid for all those children unable to currently attend school to have one month's subscription to the service. Further details are outlined below. If you would like to participate please send an email to info@bagshot.surrey.sch.uk confirming this and requesting your specific code. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us here at school. **Please note; parents will be liable for the cost of any damaged or lost books.**

Reading Chest Information

Reading Chest is a through-the-post book rental service for children learning to read. We stock a huge range of banded reading scheme books similar to those used in school. After signing up and selecting your child's book band, Reading Chest will send personalised deliveries of books to your home to encourage children's reading during lockdown.

Bagshot Infant School children have been given free bronze membership for the next month during lockdown to help keep children reading at home. Visit www.readingchest.co.uk where you will be able to find out more about how Reading Chest works

1. Go to www.readingchest.co.uk and click 'join now'.
2. Select the **bronze package**.
3. Fill in contact details and select your child's book band. There is lots of help on our site for choosing your book band.
4. Before reaching the payment stage, make sure you enter the discount code supplied to you by the school. This will ensure there is no charge for the bronze package for the next month.
5. The discount given by the school is initially for one month but may be extended. Payment details will need to be taken for security reasons to sign-up, but Reading Chest will not charge any parent without prior warning.
6. Once the sign-up process is complete, you can login to your account and make further book choices if you wish. (e.g. you can choose particular 'Favourites,' or you can choose e.g., just fiction or just non-fiction, or particular reading schemes.
7. We will send out your initial delivery of 4 books via 1st class Royal Mail as soon as you have signed up, together with a pre-paid envelope to return books in, reward chart, stickers, and bag. You will then be able to swap your books once you have finished reading them. There is no need to visit a post office – the envelopes fit into standard sized post boxes. The bronze package allows you 2 swaps (of 3 books in each envelope) each month.

Please feel free to spread the word about Reading Chest, but do **not share** the discount code wider as this is only for Bagshot Infant School children.

If you have any queries, please feel free to email or call Reading Chest 01252 705100 info@readingchest.co.uk.