



Barlow, Burton Salmon and Chapel Haddlesey Federation

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Greetings from our Federation!

It seems an age since the children left the building with their learning packs and we said goodbye for the foreseeable future. Our children and families are in our thoughts and are missed greatly. We know that safety is paramount, however we are counting down the days until we all meet again and normality may resume. Until then, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that we are still in school and here to help if you need us. There is always someone to answer your call at our childcare hub school, which is Chapel Haddlesey, or email so please do not hesitate to contact us if you need support in any way; with wellbeing, routines, finances or just logging onto Seesaw!

Welcoming our new staff

Whilst it was not the start that they were anticipating, our federation warmly welcomes Craig Bealey and Sam Thornton, who began with us after the Easter break. Mr Bealey is our new Head of School and Year 5/6 teacher at Burton Salmon. He is also the English subject leader across the federation. Mr Bealey's appointment means that there is now a permanent senior leader in place at Burton Salmon, allowing me to split my time across all three schools to drive school improvement. More information about our federation structure will follow in our next newsletter.

Mrs Thornton is our pastoral support officer, a new role that has been created to lead our pastoral team across the federation and will work intensely with families who require support inside and outside of school. Mrs Thornton has a wealth of experience within the primary sector, particularly in child mental health and counselling, and is beginning to make contact with our families to build relationships. If you would like to contact Mrs Thornton, please email your school admin and request a phone call.

Seesaw

I would like to say a huge thank you to all of our school staff for putting together such great home learning activities so quickly on Seesaw – you are all amazing! I have really enjoyed all of the videos of staff and children; it has made me miss you all even more. I appreciate that it has been a steep learning curve and it has not been straightforward for all of you to join your child's class; thank you for all for your patience and perseverance. Everyone's home circumstances are different and if you are keen to support your child with some school suggested home learning but find that there is too much, we'd say focus on reading, spelling tasks and times tables. Most importantly your family's wellbeing must come first; your child will catch up in September, so please only do what you can.

Staff Contact

Staff have started their 'ring around' this week to see how you all are and offer support if needed. Staff will ring between 9.00am and 3.30pm and their number will appear on your phone as 'withheld' or 'caller unknown'. Please do answer, it's only us trying to touch base!

Mental Health Support

Ms Hargreaves, Miss Northway and Mrs Edenbrow are all available for ELSA and compass buzz sessions should your child be in need of extra support. We have trialled a few sessions using Skype from school and they have been successful. If you would like your child to access this service, please email the admin team at your school and they will ask the staff member to contact you.

Year 5/6 France Visit

Thank you so much for your patience as we begin the task of liaising with PGL for the unattended visit to France. Due to the circumstance surrounding our decision to cancel, the insurance companies are facing a backlog of claims and the companies have had to wait for guidance from ABTA (Association of British Travel Agents) before the process could begin. Please be reassured that a refund will be given and the claim hasn't been forgotten, but we are waiting within a system that is currently experiencing huge demand. Updates will be given as soon as we know more.

ParentPay

Our financial year end was in March and there are still many families who owe payments on their ParentPay accounts. I appreciate that this is a trying time for families, particularly those who have been furloughed, so we are happy to accept staggered payments, rather than in full, between now and the end of July. If you have any worries about this, please email the admin team at each school and they will contact you to support your individual circumstance.

Re-opening

There is a considerable amount of speculation in the press regarding the reopening of schools. We haven't had any information, and whilst we are keen to welcome back our families and resume daily teaching, we will not do so until we have had guidance from the government and the local authority. Nothing has been sent to us yet, but as soon as we are updated, we will contact families directly.

On behalf of the federation team, we look forward to seeing you all again very soon.

Yours sincerely,



Suzanne MacDonald
Executive Headteacher