



Bickley Primary School
Nightingale Lane, Bromley BR1 2SQ

All Different, All Equal, All Achieve



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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all enjoyed the Easter break and are now beginning to enjoy a little more freedom as the Covid Roadmap out of lockdown continues.

I am really pleased to let you know that the children have returned to school calmly and happily, and have settled back into the swing of hard work and Covid restrictions. We are all crossing our fingers that there will be no more school closures and that the children's learning journey can continue uninterrupted!

As you can imagine, we are busy focusing on all sorts of things, including preparing to welcome our new Reception children and making sure our Year 6 children are ready for their transition to secondary school. We are also working on a summer term curriculum that is motivating and relevant, but also which includes those areas of learning that children found the most difficult, based on the end of spring term assessments.

I would like to tell you a little more about three areas of focus for us at the moment:

Catch-Up Support

Many of your children will have been invited to take part in before and after school catch-up clubs run by teachers and TAs. These will focus on areas of reading, writing and maths that children need a little more practice in to reach the standards we would expect them to reach by the end of the school year. We are also running some intervention groups in school time – also in reading, writing and maths, as well as in areas such as speaking and listening and social skills.

It is also important to know that ALL children will have missed out on certain areas of the curriculum. Teachers have worked hard to identify the key skills and areas of knowledge that they feel to be the most important to focus on during the summer term, and subject leaders will look closely at the skills that have had less time spent on in order to plan them in to next year's curriculum.

It would be really helpful for parents to know what year groups should know by the end of the year, so we are once again attaching this so that you can support your child with as many of these as possible.

Equality and Diversity

We are working hard as a staff to try to ensure that the areas of equality and diversity are considered, promoted and celebrated as much as possible and are embedded in the school ethos. We include many opportunities in the curriculum to promote equality and diversity, and assemblies often focus on different aspects of the school motto: All Different, All Equal, All Achieve.

We have continued to look closely at all areas of the curriculum to make sure that different groups are not under-represented, and this work is on-going. For example, we have recently focused on looking at the work of female scientists, and the work on Victorian Britain and World War 2 will include a greater representation of people of colour.

We have updated our RHE policy (Relationships and Health Education) and this includes making sure that children understand that all families are different, and that parents may be same sex and / or from the LGBTQ+ community. This policy will be on the website after a few final tweaks. Work across the curriculum and in assemblies regularly challenges stereotypes and we have also audited books and resources to ensure that children can see themselves represented in what they read and use.



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Company Number 08753719. The registered office is at Brackley Road, Beckenham BR3 1RF





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We know we have a lot more to do in this area, as most schools have. I attended a conference on Equality and Diversity last week and we have a staff meeting on 'Unconscious Bias' in a couple of weeks. I am also releasing all subject leaders during this term to make sure that each area of the curriculum actively promotes equality and diversity and challenges stereotypes, and a staff questionnaire will be followed by a questionnaire for parents to gather your views, thoughts and ideas.

Thinking Schools

One of our primary aims as educators is to equip our children with the skills needed to cope in a fast-changing world. I recently met with the Director of teaching and learning from the Trust and a lead from the Thinking Schools Trust, and I am keen for Bickley to start work on becoming a Thinking School. This means that we will focus on learning how we learn and teach children to develop a 'tool kit' of learning strategies to draw on when faced with challenges. To choose the right tool, children will need to be able to reflect on what's working for them and what isn't. This metacognitive skill is crucial forenabling our children to succeed way beyond leaving Primary School. It also has significant benefits for attainment, behaviour and well-being in the classroom. We are beginning our training on this during the summer term, and it will be a major focus for us for the next year or two.

So there are lots of exciting things going on at Bickley! However, what has been really heartwarming has been seeing how much the children love the new train in the playground! They absolutely love it and are coming up with all sorts of imaginative games involving it at lunch times and play times. So thank you once again for your donations that enabled us to buy this, and remember – technology might be enabling us to do all sorts of things that we couldn't do as children, but give them a static wooden train, and the possibilities are endless!

Thank you as ever for your support.

Yours sincerely

Miss Blake



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