



BEECHEN CLIFF

2nd July 2020

## Message from the Headmaster

Dear Parents and Carers

The government has now published its guidance for schools, setting out its thoughts on assisting schools to prepare for full opening in September. As far as we are concerned the guiding aspiration is that we have every pupil and student back with us, taught a full, balanced and academically demanding curriculum. The document recognises, as if we need to be told, that the dangers to individual life chances of not resuming school life soon are significant. It is possibly worth extracting some of the key points from the guidance which might have an impact on your own thoughts and planning.

1. Children will be wearing uniform as usual
2. We aim to provide the full curriculum.
3. The refectory will be open to provide food.
4. There will be more identical visits in the Autumn Term
5. Risk assessments will be updated to reflect the changes in the guidance and will be placed on our school website. These will include enhanced washing facilities.
6. The provision of support for mental health, based on solution focused practice, as well as getting back into lessons. More information will follow on this from Mr Oldham before the end of term.

There is a 'track and trace' programme in place, as you know, and this will be used to support schools. There is guidance on how individuals or groups might be impacted by positive test results, this being used to help us make decisions if symptoms are experienced by any pupil or staff member. If you would like some light reading from Her Majesty's Government I would guide you to the link below, taking you to the full document.

You will receive information from the school/Trust prior to return and, if you have any queries at that point, we will be happy to try and help.

It is certainly good, from our perspective, to be looking positively to the future return.

Mr A Davies  
Headmaster

## Solution Focused Questions - Theme of the week - Connections

How we have all been able to remain connected during Lockdown has presented each one of us with challenges; sometimes very difficult ones, and yet, we have all had to find new ways of keeping in touch with our loved ones and within our communities at work and in our own neighbourhoods. This is the final week of our SF Covid-19 Pilot and we invite you to reflect upon the theme of Connection. We invite you to think about what being connected means to you? It may mean family, friends, work colleagues or even with your neighbours. Being connected does not have the same meaning for everyone. Some of us may have had difficulties staying connected. We invite you to notice what strengths and resources you have used to help you keep connected with your family, friends, work colleagues and neighbours during lockdown. We also ask you to think about what your best hopes are for continuing to build on these connections as we look to slowly come out of lockdown. If your sense of connection to family, friends, work colleagues and neighbours was at its best, what would that look like? What does being well connected mean to you? Using the same 3 SF questions as before, we invite you to use the same scale of 0-10, to consider what number on the scale you would put yourself in terms of your connection with others.

1. *On a scale of 0 to 10, with 10 being you at your best and 0 being the opposite of that, where are you on the scale in terms of your **connection with family, friends, work colleagues and your neighbourhood?***
2. *What have you noticed about yourself that has pleased you and makes you that number and not lower?*
3. *Now you have looked where you are on the scale in relation to being at your best, describe what being at your best would look like **for your connections with family, friends, work colleagues and neighbours moving forward**, and what small sign would tell you that you were moving a small step towards being at your best?*

## Covid-19 Solution Focused Questions Pilot - Evaluation

On behalf of the Beechen Cliff Mental Health Team, we thank you hugely for taking part in this Solution Focused Question Pilot, as part of our mental health response to these unprecedented times during Covid-19. In order to help us with our whole school approach to Mental Health next year, it is especially **important** that we evaluate how you have found this invitation to try our SF questions. **On Monday 6th July**, we will be sending all students, parents and staff a very **short** evaluation questionnaire and we would ask everyone if they would spare a few minutes to answer a few questions. Please complete the questionnaire, even if you did not participate, because this is also vital feedback. The deadline for this evaluation questionnaire completion is **Friday 10th July**. As our commitment to you, and to thank you for helping us with this, the Mental Health Team will analyse the results and feedback to you all at the end of the Summer Term.

The Mental Health Team

## Beechen Cliff Design and Technology Food Newsletter July Issue 7

Published alongside this week's newsletter is Issue 7 of our fabulous Design and Technology Food Newsletter.

As well as some great food, in this edition Bath Rugby stars share their quick and tasty meal ideas and we have some spicy recipes for you to try at home.

Food Technology Team



## Talking Politics with Wera Hobhouse

Beechen Cliff students met with Wera Hobhouse on 2<sup>nd</sup> July (via Zoom) and talked democracy, representation, BLM, holding the government to account, the climate crisis and the impact of CoronaVirus on education.



Ms S Sullivan  
Assistant Headteacher - Teaching and Learning  
Teacher of History and Politics

## Duke of Edinburgh Team Changes next Year



There will be changes to our DofE personnel from September, as our current supervisor Mr. Carroll is retiring. We would like to thank him for the work he has done running the award between Hayesfield and Beechen Cliff over the last two years. He is an avid canoeist so you can expect to see him on the river Avon locally or indeed back to assess future expeditions for award. We wish him all the very best.

In turn we have appointed Jane Fox as the new Duke of Edinburgh coordinator at Beechen Cliff. She has a wealth of experience and enthusiasm in delivering the scheme and we were pleased to be able to appoint her to the position from 1<sup>st</sup> September.

Mr D Brewer  
Head of Humanities  
Outdoor Education Team

### Profile

*I'm very pleased and excited to take on the position of Duke of Edinburgh co-ordinator at Beechen Cliff School and join the amazing Outdoor Education*



*Team. My passion for the Outdoors was ignited when I was a pupil at BCS, I was luckily enough to go on one of the famous mountaineering expeditions to the French Alps amongst many other wonderful trips during my time at school. This has always remained with me and inspired me to plan my own adventures and develop a career in teaching and Outdoor Education.*

*I have thoroughly enjoyed my career so far, from teaching PE in the UK and New Zealand to leading numerous international expeditions and managing DofE and Outdoor Education programmes for schools and expedition companies.*

*I am looking forward to planning and leading some challenging and exciting expeditions for BCS students at all 3 levels of the DofE Award in this country and abroad. As well as supporting all the other amazing Outdoor opportunities the school has to offer.*

Jane

## Benefit Related Free School Meals Information and Online Application Link

Please note the B&NES Free School Meals Eligibility Checking service now has a new Free School Meals web page on the B&NES website with a link to an online **benefit related free school meal application form** which can be found using the following link: <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals> and navigate to [Apply online for free school meals >](#)

If you are already receiving benefit related free school meals for your child(ren) there is no need to reapply.

Any year 6 child in a B&NES Primary School going into year 7 in a B&NES Secondary School, currently receiving benefit related free school meals, there is no need to reapply. The eligibility to a free school meal will transfer to their new B&NES secondary school. The only exception is if your child has previously attended a school from another county. In which case you should reapply through the B&NES Free School Meals website as mentioned above.

Below is a list of qualifying benefits for free school meals.

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support
- Income-Based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income Related Employment Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (WITHOUT Working Tax Credit) and have an annual household income (as assessed by HMRC) below £16,190
- Run-on Working Tax Credit which is only paid for 4 weeks after you STOP qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- The Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Please find attached to this newsletter is a copy of the current Free School Meal application form FSM20.

The Free School Meals Team  
Bath and North East Somerset Council  
Tel 01225 394317  
Fax 01225 395210  
Email [freeschoolmeals@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:freeschoolmeals@bathnes.gov.uk)

## Theme of the Week

Theme of the week this week is focusing on looking after the environment, looking in particular at the amount of litter that is becoming a huge problem locally.

The council's cleansing team have dealt with more than 120 littering incidents in BANES over the last two months. The council says the message needs to be clear that people's rubbish is their responsibility and they must use a bin or take their litter home.

Councillor David Wood, cabinet member for Climate Emergency and Neighbourhood Services, said: "Since lockdown restrictions have eased, littering problems across our area have gone up."

*"Littering is illegal, anti-social, has a negative impact on our environment and costs thousands of pounds each year to clear."*

*"Our message is simple. Use a bin or take your litter home. We do not wish to upset anyone with the language we are using and hope residents will understand it is the littering that is offensive, and must be tackled robustly."*

<https://www.somersetlive.co.uk/news/somerset-news/photos-show-rubbish-strewn-over-4249966>

Bournemouth is another area that has been very hard hit during this time, not only with the vast amount of visitors, but also the huge amount of rubbish they are leaving behind.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/jun/28/park-staff-in-england-tell-of-litter-chaos-as-super-saturday-looms>

Please be aware of the issues that this is causing, and take any rubbish that you can't put into a bin home with you.

Mrs A Wilmot  
Head of PSHE



## PTA 50:50 Club Update

### Latest winners

Given the current circumstances and the need to cancel PTA meetings, the latest 50:50 club draw took place via Zoom conference call on Tuesday, 23rd June with five members of the PTA present - Lesley Betts, Marina Beare, Sarah Mitchard, Jo Masani and Jane Millington.

Congratulations to the winners for March, April and May 2020 listed below:

MARCH 2020		
1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	£108.50	Number 598
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	£72.33	Number 189
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	£36.17	Number 11

APRIL 2020		
1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	£98.50	Number 453
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	£65.67	Number 596
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	£32.83	Number 61

MAY 2020		
1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	£97.25	Number 257
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	£64.83	Number 191
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	£32.42	Number 440

Winners are contacted via the details supplied when signing up so do keep me up to date of any changes via the email below. Please also feel free to contact me if you just want to check what your numbers are! (All of the above winners have been contacted.)

### How to sign up

The 50:50 club operates like a lottery, with members signing up to a small standing order each month (most people donate between £1 and £5) which buys numbers in the draw. We use a random number generator to select the numbers at our PTA meetings. The prize fund is 50% of the donations and is divided into first, second and third prizes. The other 50% goes to the PTA to help fund activities, equipment and opportunities for the students. Each year, the 50:50 club raises over £2000 for the school. You can cancel your membership at any time, simply by cancelling your standing order.

If you would like to join in, **new members are welcome anytime and it is very simple to set up.** Please just contact me letting me know how many numbers you would like (£1 each) and I will give you details of how to set up the standing order.

We will still aim to carry on the 50:50 draws via Zoom/Skype during this period of school closure. I can sign people up from home and you should be able to set up your standing order without going in to your bank. So, if you have thought about joining before but not got around to it, now might be a good time to sign up and support the PTA while other fundraising events have been postponed

Sarah Mitchard (parent and 50:50 co-ordinator)

[beecheen5050@gmail.com](mailto:beecheen5050@gmail.com)

Tel: 07909962272

To all of those of you who have been trying to keep yourself fit over the past months....parkrun is (sort of) back.



Many of you will know that I am quite a keen runner and I have REALLY missed my weekly Saturday morning 5km up at Bath Skyline parkrun.

For those of you not familiar with parkrun, it is an opportunity for anyone to turn up on a Saturday morning and run/jog/walk/crawl 5km in a friendly, supportive environment. It's become a really important part of many communities across the world.

Since March it obviously hasn't been happening, but a couple of weeks ago saw the launch of (not)parkrun.

[https://www.parkrun.org.uk/peterpan/news/category/the-notice-board/#:~:text=Launching%20sometime%20next%20week%2C%20\(not,activity%20wherever%20you're%20based.](https://www.parkrun.org.uk/peterpan/news/category/the-notice-board/#:~:text=Launching%20sometime%20next%20week%2C%20(not,activity%20wherever%20you're%20based.)

It very definitely is NOT parkrun (as you will read), but if like me you've really needed some motivation to get back to regular exercise (and especially if you miss actual parkrun) then it is well worth a look.

Good luck everyone...

Mr Gill

Head of Mathematics