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Dear Parents and Carers,

VOLUNTEERING - CAN YOU HELP US? WE NEED YOU!

We are delighted to have all of the children back in school and are now planning for the rest of this year and the next academic year.

In light of schools fully opening and recent government guidance, I am delighted to be in a position to restart our volunteering initiative again at Biggin Hill Primary School. This initiative is a critical part of our COVID-19 Recovery Plan. One of the main areas of focus on our plan is reading - **this is where you come in!**

Prior to the pandemic, we had some fantastic volunteers in school and we really valued the contribution that they made.

Our aim is to launch a reading initiative aimed at closing any “gaps” that may have opened up whilst children were not in school. This program will initially be across Key Stage 1 and if there are enough volunteers, then we will also run it in Key Stage 2. Volunteers will be asked to listen to children read on a 1:1 basis, in small groups and may also be part of daily Guided Reading sessions. All volunteers will be assigned to either a class or phased bubble and will not mix across year groups.

Volunteering is such a rewarding experience and highly valued by the staff at Biggin Hill Primary School.

Below are some questions and answers that explain this initiative in a little more detail.

How can I get involved?

If you are interested in volunteering at school, please email Mrs Helps at s.helps@bigginhillps.com for an informal chat.

How does it work?

We will have an informal chat with you about volunteering in school and invite you to come in for a supervised trial session to see if volunteering with us is for you. We do find, where volunteers are parents or carers, it is best practice to volunteer in another year group from your child / children.



How can I volunteer with the present restrictions in place?

At the present time, due to government guidelines, volunteers would be expected to support within either a class or small bubble arrangement. Where possible social distancing measures will be in place.

If volunteering in school, you would also need to observe isolation requirements if, for any reason, you were identified as a close contact of a confirmed case in school.

Whilst we know these restrictions are difficult, we also hope that we are now firmly on the road to recovery and, as soon as physically possible and in line with government guidance, these restrictions will be lifted.

What happens next?

After a supported trial, if you decide you would like to volunteer with us you will need to complete a DBS, which our administrative staff will assist you with. There are also some important safeguarding documents to read and sign and our Emergency Evacuation Policy and Procedure to read - this is standard practice for volunteering within any school.

How much time do I need to volunteer?

Your time is precious, it's up to you. Let us know what works for you and we will plan and work around it.

The wider community at Biggin Hill Primary School have always supported us in times of need and after such a difficult educational year for the children, we would welcome and value your support once again.

If you are interested in volunteering in school, in the first instance, please contact Mrs Helps.

Best wishes,



Hannah Freeman
Acting Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead

