



Leppington, Birch Hill, Bracknell, RG12 7WW
Headteacher: Michael Dillon B Ed (Hons) MA

Friday, 01 May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

COVID 19 update

I hope you are all keeping safe and well. We are now coming to the end of our 2nd week after the Easter Holidays.

Teachers and school staff continue to be very positive and are working hard, whether at home or at school, ensuring that your children have plenty of educational work and some fun activities too. They are also working on planning for when the children return and fitting in some CPD of their own. It is a difficult time for all of us and it is very important that we help each other to stay positive.

Easing the Lockdown restrictions and schools reopening

You will have seen yesterday that Prime Minister announced he will be giving us more details about how they intend to ease the lockdown restrictions, including opening schools. As soon as we have more information, we will let you know.

Free School Meals

We know there have been difficulty with the websites for Free School Meals as the website is taking a significant amount of time for vouchers to be downloaded. Mrs Light is keeping in touch with parents eligible for the vouchers directly by email and we hope that this will be sorted as soon as possible. In the meantime if you need to contact us about this, please email the school.

Home Learning Pack, Resources and Videos

We hope that you have found the recent Home Learning Packs and the videos helpful and enjoyable. Teachers have been working hard to provide you with material that will help your children.

We will be making a few slight changes to the packs looking forward. Sometimes teachers will direct children to particular activities on Purple Mash and home learning activities using the 2Do function. Children will be asked to upload certain work and teachers will acknowledge this. As I have said before, Purple Mash will complement our Home Learning Packs – not replace them.

Please read the online help guide. Any questions related to Home Learning please let us know via Homelearning@birchhillprimaryschool.co.uk

Expectation of Home Learning

We hope that you are now getting in to a routine with your children, where there is a mixture of educational work, fun activities, down time and family time. We fully recognise the pressures parents/carers are under at this time. It is a difficult time for us all trying to manage working at home and family life. We are here to support you as much as we can and I must reiterate what I have said in earlier letters that there is no expectation for you to complete all the work that we set. We would advise you to look through the pack and choose with your child what is manageable. Use our timetable or set out your own, remembering plenty of breaks and pit stops. Try to balance the day with sitting down activities, individual and family activities and movement activities.

Next week's theme is Arts and Crafts. We hope to see some great imaginative creations by the end of week. Any that you want to upload or send pictures of on Purple Mash or to our home learning email please feel free to do so.

Communicating with Children

We have been investigating ways that we can safely communicate with children face to face. Next week, teachers (Reception – Year 6) will be inviting their class to join them in a Zoom Meeting. This meeting will be approximately 20 – 30 mins long and will be an informal chat so that the teacher can say hello, find out how everyone is and celebrate some of the work the children have done. It will not be a teaching session.

We have set up a timetable for the sessions to enable siblings to join their class at different times. We will email/text you an invitation at the beginning of next week and would ask that a parent is in the room with the child to ensure we are covering any safeguarding issues. We ask that you read the Online Meetings Policy attached to this email and you will be acknowledging your acceptance of these conditions by logging into the Zoom Meeting.

Timetable for Zoom calls

	AM	PM
Monday		
Tuesday	4J 4S	10S 1M
Wednesday	2M 2HW	3RD 3H
Thursday	6H 6G RC RA	5OB 5M Nurture
Friday		

Children will be really excited to see their teacher and their friends and obviously will want to tell each other their news. To enable everyone to have their turn, the teacher


will be in charge of the mute. All children will be muted and when they want to speak, they will put up their hands and the teacher will then unmute their microphone for them to speak.

Remember this is not meant to be a teaching session, but more an informal chat. It is also not a parent consultation meeting. Although we want you to be in the room, the main purpose of the meeting is for the children to share their work, and check out their friends and teacher. We are hoping that this will enable us to keep in contact with the class. If you have any concerns you wish to discuss with the teacher, you should do this through email to the school.

We hope that you will be pleased with this addition. We are sure that the children will enjoy this.

Please stay safe and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael M', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael Dillon
Headteacher