



Busbridge CE (Aided) Junior School
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Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

School Closure from Monday 23rd March – Important Information

We love watching your children learning, laughing and just being children. Watching them and chatting to them over this last week has felt particularly poignant knowing that a school closure is just around the corner.

From Monday 23rd March, school continues but it will be different. We have stressed to the children that Monday does not see the start of a long holiday. The learning continues. However, we will all be redefining what school looks like and the learning will be happening in many different ways. The baton is being passed on to you, but please do not feel the need to replicate conventional school at home. It will take time, but do not worry about being creative and individualistic in the way that you define and do 'school'. My wish is that you all enjoy watching your children learn, laugh and just being a child as much as we all do at BJS. We can help you with this. The information below will hopefully help you.

Well-Being and Health

We are sending out a document entitled "Areas to Develop for Well-Being to Flourish in Children". Please read it and reflect on it now and as the weeks progress. Consider whether your child is gaining access to activities from each of the six areas. By doing this an element of balance and variety can be achieved which can support positive well-being.

If your child is struggling in any way we are still around. Send us an email and we can get back to you. You and your children are not being cast adrift from BJS.

If you have a Safeguarding concern around any child please contact us or Surrey Children's Services:

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/childrens-social-care/contact-childrens-services>
or phone 0300 470 9100.

Home Learning

There is plenty of advice out there. Whatever you do is good enough. Do not compare yourself to that family down the road who seem to have it all sussed: they probably don't.

Here are some things to consider:

- (1) Set up a routine.** You will develop a living and learning rhythm in your family. Be flexible but have boundaries. Create structure and expectation around work timings, relaxation times, non-game screen times, etc. Make your expectations and timings visible so all can see them. Review them and be realistic. Involve the children in these discussions. Do not crowd them – they need time to just be.



- (2) **Try new things.** You do not need to recreate BJS (or your memories of school) at home. Learning takes many forms such as cooking, watching nature documentaries, board games, exercise routines – the list is endless. Do these together with your child. We will provide some work and activities. Use them as you want, but use time wisely. This is an opportunity to spend significant time with your children that most parents never have.
- (3) **Keep it simple.** We view the next couple of months as consolidation of prior learning. There is not a need to plough on through the National Curriculum. You can if you want to, especially if you envisage your child taking entrance exams at some point. However, learning at home needs to be broadly enjoyable and positive.

Our school vision is this:

To be a school that reflects the love of Christ: **cherishing** each other as unique individuals and **challenging** all to achieve and succeed. How can you continue the Cherish + Challenge vision at home?

The Practicalities

We will not be sending home pages of photocopying for you to complete with your child between now and the summer. Some of the work we provide will be very directed, others not. You will need to supervise your child's learning and probably supplement what we issue. Here are some key points:

- (i) **Weekly VLE posting of work:** Your child's class teacher will send work home weekly via the VLE. You may want to supplement it with work and activities of your own. By Monday 9am suggested activities for the week will be posted.
- (ii) **Logins:** you have been issued copies of your child's logins for the VLE, Purple Mash, TT Rockstar, Spag.Com (there may be some issues for us to resolve for a few children).
- (iii) **Learning Websites:** there are a plethora of free home education websites out there. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize> is a classic and a useful starter. We have many websites to suggest (we haven't looked at them all though). We will post these in due course and let you know how to access them. They will be posted on the school website on the Home Learning page along with other useful resources.
- (iv) **Maths Fluency:** we will post 3 way differentiated 'daily 10' arithmetic / fluency questions daily (answers being posted the following day).
- (v) **Collins Maths Book:** we are sending home a Collins text book with each child. These are to keep as we no longer use them in school. Your child's teacher may set work from this book.
- (vi) **Exercise books:** we are sending each child home with at least one exercise book. You can use this as you wish. We won't be asking to see it when we return.
- (vii) **Learning Log:** Your child has been issued with a Learning Log. This is so that they can keep a tick or brief word record of what they have covered each day. We will be looking at these once we return to school.
- (viii) **Daily Essentials in the Learning Log:** In the Learning Log you will see that we are requesting that certain activities happen every day (e.g. exercise, reading, maths fluency, creative activity). The teacher may or may not suggest what is done for that activity. For example, the teacher may say "create a collage of a forest" but other weeks they will not suggest anything 'creative' so please fill the gap.
- (ix) **Marking:** Most of the marking will be completed by you / the child at home. The teachers will be able to monitor some of your child's work - this is work in progress.
- (x) **Learning conversations between child/teacher:** We are not entirely sure how this will work yet. We expect to make video contact with you and your child in some way - another work in progress.



Do remember to plant your sunflower seeds. They came home today in a brown envelope sellotaped to a piece of paper. The two plant pots that your child came home with simply contain the soil to plant the sunflower seeds in. Every child and adult in the school has been asked to plant their seeds. As they grow they will remind us that we are still one despite being spread out just now.

If you hit a hard patch with the home learning simply do stuff that you enjoy and are passionate about. It's better that you have a laugh and joke whilst making brownies rather than crying over subtracting fractions.

Your children are a delight to be with. It won't be easy, but the smiles and good times are certainly there waiting to be uncovered. Enjoy!

With best wishes and sincere prayers for health and happiness in your families.

Take care, and God bless.

A handwritten signature in dark purple ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'R' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Richard Catchpole
(Head teacher)

