

Brabourne Church of England Primary School

Brabourne, Ashford, Kent TN25 5LQ * Tel/Fax 01303 813276 * email office@brabourne.kent.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr Andrew Stapley

17 April 2020

Dear Parents

Start of term 5 update

I do hope this letter finds you and your families safe and well and you have all managed to enjoy some of the sunshine over Easter. Moreover, I hope that you have all been able to find some space as a family, to process some of the enormous changes that have taken place across the country.

Before any updates, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your kind messages over the last few weeks. It has also been a joy to see the pictures of the children and their work, both through email and Twitter. We miss them all very much.

I also appreciate that as parents, you have all had to manage a huge amount over the last few weeks, without the support of a normal school structure. I have heard from many of our families, some of whom have faced hugely challenging circumstances, and we have been thinking of you all.

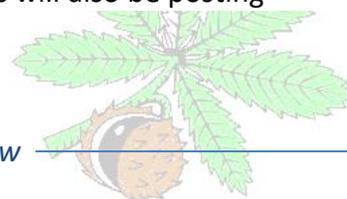
Closure

The government announced yesterday that schools will continue to remain closed until further notice; other than to children who are vulnerable, and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home. We remain open and available for any pupils who fit these criteria. Thank you for all the responses to my last letter regarding provision for next week. However, should your family circumstances change over the next three weeks, and you find the need to call upon us, please contact me directly: headteacher@brabourne.kent.sch.uk.

Learning

I hope that you have found some of the work sent out by the teachers before the Easter holidays helpful. You can now find all of this in one place: <http://www.brabourne.kent.sch.uk/children/links-to-learning/>. I also appreciate that the future uncertainty is going to present ongoing challenges for many parents, in maintaining a level of education at home, particularly for younger children who may not have such a degree of independence.

From Monday 20th April, the teachers will post new home learning sheets on the school's 'Links to Learning' page. **I will notify parents by text when these are uploaded.** Each class will post a home learning grid with ideas for every subject. This will loosely follow the topics for learning for this term. The teachers have tried to ensure that there is a balance of online and paper based activities, with extension activities for those who may wish to do more. There will also be some activities which children may be able to complete more independently. Teachers will also be posting



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recommended reading lists and other relevant resources specific to their classes.

The teachers will be using two main key online resources: White Rose Maths and Purple Mash.

The White Rose, which we follow in school, is an excellent resource which teaches the children Maths through video lessons. Please do take the time to become familiar with this if you can.

<https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/>

Purple Mash is an online website which covers English, Maths, Computing and Science

<https://www.purplemash.com/#tab/pm-home>.

Log ins for this resource have been sent by post to all pupils in Mars class this week. All other classes should have these, but if you need a copy please email me directly.

Please try not to worry about your child's learning at this stage. So far, most children across the country have missed between seven to ten days of schooling since before the Easter holidays. As soon as schools are up and running again, we will work hard to ensure any gaps are filled. In this instance the message remains the same: please do what you can and if you need any advice, support, suggestions, extra materials, we are here to help. We do not expect you to teach your children as we would during a normal school day, but anything you can do to help continue some learning at home, would be beneficial.

We would love to see the children's work. Please send us what they have completed or Tweet their work @brabournecep.

Over the last three weeks, we have been busy planning a more interactive approach to learning, using an online learning platform. These are not typically used in primary schools, and this has taken some time to implement. I hope to update you on the details as soon possible.

Please find below some links which you may find useful:

BBC BITESIZE

From the 20th April BBC Bitesize will be providing a range of daily lessons in English and Maths (as well as other subjects for primary and secondary children). For more information see:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zn9447h>

Kent Together

If you are vulnerable and have an urgent need that cannot be met through existing support networks, or are concerned about the welfare of someone else you can contact the Kent Together



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helpline at www.kent.gov.uk/KentTogether or by calling on 03000 41 92 92. It is a 24 hour service.

NSPCC website

The NSPCC has created Covid 19 – Parents Page, an online Hub providing advice and support for parents and carers during the coronavirus outbreak. Content includes: information on keeping children safe from abuse; tips and advice to help parents working from home; and ways to talk to a child who is anxious or worried about coronavirus. Please share with your networks, family and friends.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/coronavirus-advice-support-children-families-parents>

The **Under 12s** Childline website (www.childline.org.uk/kids) has a new page to help primary age children make sense of the Covid-19 situation, with information and advice as well as tips for managing our feelings. There are also some lovely games and activities to help children manage their worries.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/your-feelings/anxiety-stress-panic/worries-about-the-world/coronavirus>

In the meantime, please take care and if there is anything we can help with, please do not hesitate to contact us.

I will continue to stay in touch with any relevant updates over the next few weeks.

With best wishes,

Andrew Stapley
Headteacher



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Sow the seeds... Nurture... Watch them grow