

**Headteacher:** Caroline Crosdale

4<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

## **RE: COVID19 SCHOOL CLOSURE JANUARY 2021**

As promised, we are writing with additional information about remote learning during the school closure period. We are constantly working to improve the remote learning we offer children at Brentside Primary and have taken on board feedback from parents, staff and children.

We recognise that families have different needs and one approach won't suit everyone. Many of our families are sharing a computer which may also be needed for older siblings at secondary school or parental work commitments, and some have no significant internet access. We also recognise that this time adds additional pressure to families and we hope to alleviate some of the stress you may be feeling about remote learning.

### **PURPLE MASH**

We recommend using Purple Mash. This can be done via a computer, tablet or smart phone.

On Purple Mash there is a self-Isolation folder where all work is posted by the teacher in addition to 'To Do' tasks that teachers will set. Please select the dated folder for the connected work. Teacher will set work daily, with an explanation of what needs to be completed each day will be posted on the class blog.

There will be teaching videos created by the teachers, to help with the teaching of key concepts.

Where possible, work should be completed on Purple Mash, in the books sent home at the start of the year, or work saved to a computer and sent into school via new year group email system that we have set up.

Teachers will be clear about the learning they expect to see and what they will provide feedback on. If you have completed work in the book, you can upload a photo of your child's work and send to the email address provided, please note the year group email is **ONLY** to send work to and concerns will not be addressed by the teachers, these must come through the school office.

Alternatively, from time to time, teachers may ask children to complete a quiz on Purple Mash so that they can identify if children understand the topic or if further learning is needed.

Teachers will be available to answer questions, discuss learning and give feedback to children via the blog and message functions on Purple Mash between 9am and 3pm Monday to Thursday and between 9am and 12pm on Fridays. All teachers will have planning and preparation time on a Friday afternoon. Please be mindful that a teacher may take some time to respond but will do this as swiftly as possible.

We have chosen this approach as we recognise it is difficult for many families to access learning at a prescribed time which would be necessary for live sessions. We also recognise that many of our families do not have the computer access at home to support this.

Please remind your child that we have the same expectations of behaviour online as we do in school and that teachers and leaders can see all of the comments made via the Purple Mash blog and messages. We would also ask you to encourage your child to engage in the home learning, it is important that they do not miss out on an education.

### **YEAR GROUP EMAIL ADDRESSES**

Each year group has a new email address so pupil work **ONLY** can be sent, the emails are as follows:-

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| • <a href="mailto:Nursery@brentsideprimary.ealing.sch.uk">Nursery@brentsideprimary.ealing.sch.uk</a>     | • <a href="mailto:Year3@brentsideprimary.ealing.sch.uk">Year3@brentsideprimary.ealing.sch.uk</a> |
| • <a href="mailto:Reception@brentsideprimary.ealing.sch.uk">Reception@brentsideprimary.ealing.sch.uk</a> | • <a href="mailto:Year4@brentsideprimary.ealing.sch.uk">Year4@brentsideprimary.ealing.sch.uk</a> |
| • <a href="mailto:Year1@brentsideprimary.ealing.sch.uk">Year1@brentsideprimary.ealing.sch.uk</a>         | • <a href="mailto:Year5@brentsideprimary.ealing.sch.uk">Year5@brentsideprimary.ealing.sch.uk</a> |
| • <a href="mailto:Year2@brentsideprimary.ealing.sch.uk">Year2@brentsideprimary.ealing.sch.uk</a>         | • <a href="mailto:Year6@brentsideprimary.ealing.sch.uk">Year6@brentsideprimary.ealing.sch.uk</a> |

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## **MONITORING HOME LEARNING**

We will be monitoring the work that children complete and teachers will be making phone calls to speak to children once a week to discuss the learning they are doing at home. If you wish to discuss anything with the class teacher please contact the school office who will pass on any messages.

## **HOME LEARNING PACKS**

We have provided books for children to record their work in and do not expect you to print off any work, therefore we would ask that you only request a home learning pack if you do not have access to a computer, tablet or smart phone. If you require a pack, please contact the school office.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS**

As the SENDCo, I will be available to offer additional support to children with special educational needs, and work will be appropriately set for these children. If you have any questions please contact me via the school office. Physical resource packs to support specific programmes will be offered to those that need them.

## **SAFEGUARDING AND WELLBEING**

We recognise this time can be particularly difficult for families. If you have any safeguarding concerns or questions please contact the school office and request a call regarding safeguarding. We will continue to keep in touch with all our families and support the wellbeing of all our pupils at what we know is a difficult time.

## **E-SAFETY**

Whilst remote learning is taking place, your child may be spending more time on the internet. At BPA, we aim to equip children with the necessary skills to keep themselves safe online, at school or at home. We would appreciate your continued support with this during this time. Whilst we understand that many parents will also be working from home, please can you monitor your child's activity online, preferably have them working in the same room, and discuss the appropriate platforms your child should be using for their learning. More information about e-safety can be found on our website.

We have learnt a huge amount over the last year about remote learning, where to focus our attention and what approach works for our particular children and families. While we have come a long way from the initial lockdown, it is likely that we will continue to learn and develop our approach further as time goes on.

## **FREE SCHOOL MEALS**

There is no national or borough wide voucher scheme at present. However, Harrison Catering will be producing weekly food parcels for families who are eligible free school meals. These food parcels will be assembled at the school by Harrison catering staff and will need to be collected directly from the school by parents. We will send a message to parents informing them when the weekly food parcels are ready for collection.

We appreciate the understanding that parents have shown us at this difficult time and even though you are not currently in school, you remain in our thoughts and at the forefront of everything we do at Brentside Primary School.

Should you require any type of support during this time of school closure, please contact the school office and we will do all we can to support you and your family.

Yours faithfully

Caroline Crosdale  
Headteacher