

Benhurst Primary School

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Head teacher: Mr D. Denchfield BA (Hons) NPQH

Friday 3rd April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are well and have been able to adapt to what probably feels like a different and very new life. For almost everyone, their work pattern, home life, social life and pastimes have dramatically changed over the last fortnight in a way we could never have imagined.

Over the last week, I have been contacted by a number of parents requesting guidance and advice on how best to support their child during our closure. Below are a few thoughts that may be helpful.

- Would your child like a routine in place or prefer a more casual approach? You know your child better than anyone and will know which approach would help. Do what you feel is best and don't be swayed by what other families are doing or online chatter.
- Allow your child to learn at their own pace.
- Let your child become the teacher. Children relish explaining what they are doing and what they have learned.
- Show your child you are really interested in their learning.
- Enjoy other activities and fun stuff! Cooking, family films, board games, build a den etc.
- Keep active. The daily Joe Wicks workout is very popular.
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAxW1XT0iEJo0TYIRfn6rYQ>
- Have clear boundaries with screen time.
- Parents, please note that teaching your own children can be REALLY HARD! I suspect some of you have discovered this over the last couple of weeks. You are doing a great job in very challenging circumstances. Please don't be too hard on yourself or worry if a day doesn't go as planned - there is always tomorrow.
- Finally, please contact us if we can help in any way. Although school is not open as we would like, we are still here to help and support where we can. This is a link to our staff email addresses. <https://benhurst.havering.sch.uk/home/meet-the-staff/>

Please continue share your child's learning or anything of interest with us on Twitter @benhurstprimary. It's really lovely to see what you are doing and to share with our school community. If you do not have Twitter, you can email me and I will post on our page - ddenchfield@benhurst.havering.sch.uk



Google Classroom

We will continue to provide home learning through Google Classroom. It is brilliant to see the children so engaged in this and for teachers to be able to provide feedback. We want to use this platform so we can stay connected as a school community.

Please remember that anything written in the stream can be seen by all adults and children within that classroom. <https://classroom.google.com/h>

SMART Learning

We will create and share links to SMART Learning Suite Online activities created by us; these will be in the classwork section of Google Classroom. The login is the same as for Google Classroom and needs to be repeated when prompted. These can also be marked and feedback given by the teacher. Some activities are self-marking and give instant feedback. We plan to share links for either a year group or whole school Monster Quiz, SMART Response or Shout Out Activity. These activities need to be joined and run at the same time as children interact or compete against each other individually or in teams. We will provide notice of when such activities will take place.

<https://suite.smarttech-prod.com/student/login>

In addition SMART have created a Parent Dashboard which they are continuing to add to regularly; this has some really fun and engaging learning activities which are grouped by ages.

<https://t.co/HeVRBJVLLs>

We have also populated every year group homework page with lots of interesting websites which you may wish to use.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to our staff who have been amazing. In the space of a few days, we have reshaped the way we work and operate and now have a successful and happy childcare service for key workers children, offer online learning to 420 children, provide electronic school meal vouchers for eligible families and have telephone contact with many families who may need additional support. I could not be prouder of our staff and for the way they have risen to every challenge we have faced. It is a privilege to work with such dedicated and caring people.

Take care and stay safe.

Mr D Denchfield
Head Teacher