

Bishop Road Primary School

Bishop Road, Bristol BS7 8LS



Head Teacher: Gillian Powe

Deputy Head Teacher: Joe Emissah

Friday 18th September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Update Letter

Thank you for your continued effort in supporting our positive start to this term. I was fortunate enough to visit many classes across the school this week to witness children's learning – albeit a short socially distanced stop in the doorway. It was very encouraging to see that both children and teachers have already made a great start to the year and it is clear children are developing in their confidence and stamina after their time away from school.

Home learning

While focused on school-based learning, we are developing plans for both class closures and individual and small group covid-related absences. By the end of next week, we expect to be able to confirm the platform that we will be using for home learning, along with details of any set-up requirements to ensure every pupil is ready to commence work, should we need to move to a different model for learning in the future.

Individual or small group covid-related absences are challenging to cater for, as the teacher (assuming they are not part of the identified group) will still be in class teaching the rest of the children. In such instances, a programme of pre-prepared daily lessons for each class will be accessible online with lesson guides/notes. There will also be a daily group zoom contact session with a home learning support teacher to maintain contact and keep children engaged (again this will not be your child's teacher – as they will be teaching the class). The home learning support teacher will also give feedback to children on work completed. The programme of daily lessons will link to the learning focus for the term including humanities topics, PE, art, spellings, the class book and other current stimulus. This will ensure children have relevant and appropriate content and learning tasks when they are not in school. Each new term a further programme of lessons will be uploaded to ensure a variety and progression of learning should children be absent on multiple occasions across the year.

Full class closures will see children interacting daily with their class teacher (assuming the teacher is not the person unwell with covid symptoms). Children will be attending daily zoom meetings with their teacher, accessing daily videos for individual lessons as well as receiving individual lesson guides/notes. This will support children and parents to access the learning that reflects, as near as possible, what children would normally be covering in class. The class teacher will also provide regular feedback on work completed. This model for home learning is scalable from one through to all 28 classes, with some slight adaptations should full school closure be implemented, alongside key worker provision.



While we are finalising the above plans, any covid-related absences should be notified to the school office answerphone and someone from your child's year group team will send some work home for your child to complete. This is a temporary arrangement until we confirm the above plans.

General reminders:

- Please do not bring dogs to school at drop off or collection times. We also ask that you do not tether dogs outside the school gate at these very busy times.
- Please leave all messages about covid-related absence on the school answerphone.
- Any changes to collection arrangements must be left with a member of the office team who will ask security questions when you call in. Teachers will not check and respond to messages on the email addresses during the day and it is not possible to contact them about collection changes.

Local Authority information on testing:

If you require a Covid-19 test please call 119 or visit the government website

<https://selfreferral.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/antigen/name>

The advice we have been given is for parents to keep trying the test portal, as additional slots are uploaded throughout the day. From onset of symptoms, the individual has 5 days to get tested, but it is crucial to maintain self-isolation until the test result is known.

Unless someone has symptoms of COVID, they should not seek a test i.e. if you have been a close contact with someone who has confirmed Covid infection you need to self-isolate for 14 days and not get a test unless you develop symptoms.

The local NHS 111 service is currently experiencing high numbers of calls from people seeking Covid-19 tests. The 111 service is not able to arrange tests and callers have to be redirected to the correct 119 number, or online service, which is frustrating for individuals and affects 111 capacity.

The following website provides useful information to parents in considering their child's health in relation to school attendance.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

Joe Emissah
Deputy Head Teacher

