

Friday 3rd April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we end this term in a very different way than ever before, I urge you all to stay home and stay safe during this Easter break. This is a very difficult time for us all, but please remain positive and be kind to yourselves and each other.



On our school website, we have a dedicated tab with information to support families at home while we are in lock down.

https://www.beaverroad.org.uk/page/at-home-support

Happy homes and supporting children's (and your) mental health is what we should strive for most during this time – especially over the Easter break. Children will be feeling worried, so ensuring they are feeling as safe and loved as possible is very important. There are toolkits, activities and guidance specifically designed to support you to look after your own and your children's mental health on these pages. There is also information about services who are able to help you if needed. One of our parents (who is a physiologist) has kindly sent us a resilience toolkit made especially for primary aged children about Covid-19. It is named 'Sisu Kids Resilience Toolkit'. Please do take time to look at this and other resources on these pages over the holidays if you can.



**ARTICLE 16**: (right to privacy) Every child has the right to privacy. The law should protect the child's private, family and home, including protecting children from unlawful attacks that harm their reputation.



Another area I ask you to be particularly mindful of about at this time is in relation to keeping children safe online at home. Unfortunately, we have already had some serious cases of social networking abuse reported to us while children have been at home. It is important to remember that primary aged children are extremely vulnerable to abuse online from both people they know and don't know. Please see the following link to our website E-safety page.

https://www.beaverroad.org.uk/page/e-safety





This page is full of all the information you need to help keep your children safe when using the internet and social media. Please remember that Tik Tok and all other social media apps are only appropriate for children aged 13 years and older. I strongly advise against the use of any of these by any primary aged children, and if they do have access, it must be supervised access at all times.

The Department for Education have also recently published information on this for parents and carers in the context of schools being closed at this time. Please see the following notice.....

## https://www.gov.uk/ Guidance for parents and carers: keeping

## children safe online

We have updated our information for parents and carers to include a section on keeping children safe online. It provides links to online resources that will help support parents and carers in keeping their children safe online.

Full details can be found in section 6.3 of the guidance for parents and carers on the closure of educational settings:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-ofeducational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers



This week all parents and carers from Year 1 to Year 6 should have received their child's Seesaw login. If you have not, or you are having difficulties logging in using the code you have been sent, please e-mail Mrs Byrne <u>r.byrne@brps.net</u> and she will be happy to help.

Lots of families have already started sharing their children's learning at home and we have loved seeing and hearing what you have been working on



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whilst you've not been in school. The children have obviously been really busy and produced some wonderful pieces of work. Thank you for your continuing support.

When our staff are not working in school looking after our Key Worker children, like many of you, they will be working from home. They will have demands and pressures of their own, such as childcare, and so it may not be possible for staff to work a 'usual' school day. Although our teachers will dedicate time in their working week to check Seesaw to see what you have posted, please be patient, as we do not expect our staff to leave feedback immediately.

We are currently using Seesaw for children to post what they have been learning at home and for teachers to leave feedback to both support and encourage the children. This is not a method of communication for parents to contact the class teacher. If you do need to contact the school, please continue to do so by email <u>admin@brps.net</u> or telephone on 0161 445 9337.

Over the holidays, whilst we recognise that routine is important for children and they are learning all the time, we are recommending that they take a break from school work as they would usually. Therefore, learning at home activities will not be posted on the website by teachers over the holidays and staff will not be active on the online learning platforms (Seesaw/Tapestry). Mr Knowles will also be taking a break from his daily workouts. However, this will all resume when we return after the holidays, along with some new ideas for the children including access to reading materials etc. As mentioned in my letter last Friday, learning at home activities will be posted on the class website pages by 5pm on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April, in readiness for the following week when term begins.

Thank you again for all your positive support for each other and the school community during this exceptionally challenging time. I hope you all keep safe over the Easter break and have the opportunity to enjoy being together at home.

Best wishes,

Liz Hardy Headteacher



