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BEAVER ROAD M20

Beaver Road Primary School
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Friday 8th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sure you will agree that the start we have had to 2021 is not the one any of us hoped for. However, in true Beaver Road style, we have faced it with determination, collaboration and positivity. I would like to thank you for your overwhelming patience and support this week as we have had to rapidly make changes like never before. We were all so disappointed with the news that we could not fully return to school on Tuesday. Although we were as prepared as we could be in the circumstances, unfortunately due to the short notice, our school spider system was not able to cope with the unprecedented demand from all schools using their platform after 8pm on Monday. I am sorry, that despite our best efforts, our communications arrived much later than were sent on both Monday and Tuesday evening, and we appreciate the graciousness that many of you have shown, despite your own worries and frustrations about the situation.



Even though the technical difficulties slowed us down a little, I am delighted that we were able to have all the remote learning available immediately on Seesaw and Tapestry from Tuesday morning and provision for vulnerable and critical worker children from Wednesday. The huge commitment and skills from our staff team to ensure this for your children is testament to the incredible team they are – I could not be prouder of them. If you are still having any difficulties accessing the remote learning, please do contact school. There is also more information below about the provision and how it will be developed even further this term.



Internet access and IT equipment

If you are having issues with your broadband or do not have any, the school has been allocated 50 data sims to support families in need. In addition, if you have any spare high quality mobile devices that you would like to donate to support children who do not have individual access, please let us know. For both of these, please email admin@brps.net and label it for the attention of Tina Smith. We are also sourcing additional IT equipment for children in need through the government initiatives, so please do make us aware if your children would benefit from this extra equipment.



Remote learning questionnaire feedback

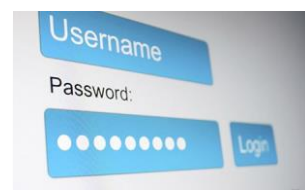


Thank you to those parents and carers who were able to complete the questionnaire about this autumn's remote learning provision. It was very encouraging to see the over whelming positive responses to the quality and quantity of work provided when a whole class bubble had to be closed. This was especially pleasing as this is the provision we are now providing for the majority of our children during lockdown 3.

It was also very helpful to read your suggestions about how the provision could be improved further. The key themes that came from the questionnaire were about supporting children's mental health and wellbeing, providing opportunities for children to see the children from their class and having more frequent interactions with the class teacher. We have taken this feedback on board and have begun to put the steps in place to make sure these improvements are made over the coming weeks.

Username and passwords

With the move to online learning, we appreciate this has meant families have received a large number of different usernames and passwords for various curriculum online applications which you may have found hard to keep track of. Therefore, we are beginning to compile all the usernames and passwords into one document, which we will then be able to use to distribute a compiled list of usernames and passwords for each child. Please bear with us. As you can imagine, this will take a considerable amount of administration time. However, I am sure you will agree it will make accessing these different sites a lot simpler.



Online reading resources



One of three new online reading programmes Beaver Road has bought into, to support children's reading at home is 'Bug Club'. Next week, you will be receiving a letter with more detailed information about what Bug Club is and the username, password and school code for your child to be able to access this online reading resource. Please keep a look out for this email.

Our curriculum during lockdown

Although we would much prefer to have all of our children in school learning together, the children who are learning in school and the rest of our children accessing remote learning at home, will be receiving the same high quality curriculum, regardless of whether it is being taught in the classroom or on Tapestry or Seesaw. We would like to reassure parents and carers that despite the circumstances, our Curriculum is still broad and balanced and our teaching staff are continuing to follow their year groups Long and Medium Term plans, which can be found on the year group's class pages on our website. The teaching resources that are used in the classroom are the same as those being used in the videos online. As always, we will endeavour to make the lessons as engaging as possible, whilst trying to develop the children's knowledge and skills at the same time.

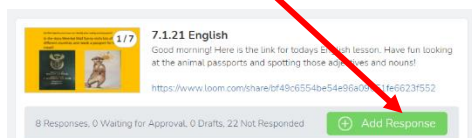
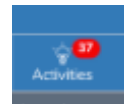


If you still haven't been able to access your child's tapestry or seesaw account, please contact the school admin team admin@brps.net so that they can provide you with the relevant details.

In response to a number of queries

Just a note about printing. We are not expecting parents and carers to have to print all the work set on the learning platform. For instance, the pdfs uploaded to Seesaw can be written or typed onto using the drawing tools. This is one of the main advantages of using Seesaw. If it is possible for your child to read and respond on screen, this will hopefully avoid the need to print multiple pages. However, in response to feedback, if the children do need to print any work out, staff will try, where possible, to make sure the sheets are black and white. Don't forget that it's absolutely fine to write on plain or lined paper wherever you can and then take a photo to upload – that will hopefully save the need to print too.

Another frequent question from families this week has been about the red activities number. Therefore, we would like to draw your attention to the 'add response' button.



When children upload work to Seesaw, it is best practice to add the work completed by using the green 'add response' button. In doing so, every time a response is added to an activity, the number will go

down. In time, once we have given families chance to catch up with any missed learning due to busy work commitments etc. the activities will be deleted from Seesaw, which will also reduce the activity number if your child has not been responding in this way previously.

Critical keyworker provision



Following the closure of the Critical Key Worker Questionnaire on School Spider on Tuesday afternoon, we continue to have huge demand for these limited places. At present, across both sites, we have invited nearly 300 children back to school and are at capacity. However, in the coming days, we will continue to monitor children's attendance and make contact with those families who are not making use of their place, in the hope to be able to offer these places out to families in need of them on the school's waiting list.

We urge all parents and carers who have been offered a place to inform the school office if they do not intend to send their children in or are no longer in need of it. In line with government guidance and for everyone's safety, please only accept a place and send your child to school if you absolutely have to. From Monday 11th January 2021, the School Spider questionnaire will once again be available on the school website for those families who now wish to request a place. Please note that if your child is already attending school or you have already applied and are on our waiting list, you **do not** need to complete this again as a place has already been secured. At this time, all those considered eligible on the new questionnaire will be added to the school's waiting list. This will be reviewed each Thursday for the rest of the term. Where places do become available, school will contact families by the end of each week offering places to start the beginning of the following week.

All requests must be done through the new questionnaire. Those made through the school office and class teachers will not be considered.

Parent governor election



Next week I will be sending the details of the four parents who have been nominated for the parent governor position. The election will take place using school spider, so please do look out for the email and link on school spider.

Finally, please try not to worry about the situation we find ourselves in once again and do ask if you are not sure about anything or need help. We are here to support all our children and families as much as we possibly can. Together, as a resilient, kind and caring school community, we will get through this!

Take care and keep safe,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Liz Hardy'.

Mrs Liz Hardy
Executive Headteacher

A pink rectangular box containing the text 'THE WORLD IS FULL OF KIND PEOPLE. IF YOU CAN'T FIND ONE, BE ONE.' in a playful, multi-colored font.



Article 2 (non-discrimination) The Convention applies to every child without discrimination, whatever their ethnicity, sex, religion, language, abilities or any other status, whatever they think or say, whatever their family background.

Article 14 (freedom of thought belief and religion) Every child has the right to think and believe what they choose and also to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Governments must respect the rights and responsibilities of parents to guide their child as they grow up.

Article 30 (children from minority or indigenous groups) Every child has the right to learn and use the language, customs and religion of their family, whether or not these are shared by the majority of the people in the country where they live.