



**BARNWOOD CHURCH OF ENGLAND
PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Sunday 10th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I really hope you managed to make the best of your weekend despite the current restrictions. I know after the chaos and stress caused by last week's move to national lockdown many people were relieved to be able to catch a breath at the weekend and reflect on the past week's events.

I sat down on Saturday morning and, I'll be completely honest, I was overcome with emotion when I thought about the strength of support and understanding our school community has shown to the school. I will be eternally grateful for your patience as we raced to get everything in place last week. Thank you to those of you who took time out of your busy days to get in touch and share your kind words, they really did mean a lot and they boosted staff morale tremendously.

We want to do the very best by all members of our community, especially our children. We've had to accept that not everything can be done immediately, even though we want it done yesterday, and we still have things we want to put in place to enhance our remote learning offer to all children. I know that over the next few weeks our remote learning provision will continue to develop further as we all learn together and support the children with learning in this new way.

This letter will hopefully answer some of your questions about our school provision for the next five weeks. I know many of you will still have additional questions and I will be sending out further updates via email as and when I have more information to share.

Critical workers

If you completed our booking form by 10am on Friday morning you should have received an email from us on Friday afternoon with confirmation of the onsite provision available for your child(ren). Since then, the Government have issued an update to the guidance for critical workers advising that parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can. Please inform us via the admin email if you need to cancel/amend your booking in light of this update as the more children that can remain at home and reduce the amount of households mixing has to be the priority.

Daily update from GOV.UK for: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings

Page summary:

List of critical workers (key workers) and vulnerable children and young people who can access full-time education provision in the case of future restrictions on education during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Change made:

Updated 'Critical workers' section to clarify that parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can.

Time updated:

5:26pm, 8 January 2021

Critical workers

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections. Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required, but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.



**SCHOOL
MEMBER**



Onsite educational provision

In school, children will access the same remote learning set by the class teacher for the whole class and they will be supervised by the class learning partners and teacher training students. There will be enhanced hand washing and children will be socially distanced as far as possible in their classrooms. Break and lunch times will be staggered and we will do our very best to ensure our class bubbles do not mix. Staff will be wearing masks around the school building and in some cases staff will be wearing masks or visors in the classroom.

To ease the workload for our staff I have asked class teachers to make the work they set available to all children in their class. If your child(ren) is attending school for only specific days please know that on the days they are in school they will complete the work set for that day in their bubble.

If your child is booked in but is unable to attend please contact the school to let us know as soon as possible so that we can assign the correct attendance code.

Children should wear their school uniform but I must warn you it is seriously cold in school, even with the heating on. I suggest sending children in wearing several layers of clothing under their uniform and please send them with a warm coat and an extra jumper or fleece which they can keep in school.

Remote educational provision

We are committed to providing high quality remote education for all of our children during this time and we want to support all of our children to move forward with their learning and not lose the educational gains they made last term.

We signed up for the DfE support with remote education package in September and, as I informed you in my letter on Friday, the installation of our Teams platform was completed last Thursday. This will mean each pupil will have their own Microsoft 365 Teams login and it should make the two way sharing of resources much easier.

Unfortunately, when we tried on Friday to access the platform it appears that there are still some functions that need enabling by the installation team. Lovely Mrs Davies, in our school office, is on the case and as soon as the company have sorted out the gremlins she will be sending login details out to you via email.

I have also been trying to secure more devices from the Government however their window for ordering has not yet been made available to primary schools. There is also an offer from Government to support families that require more data. I will look in to this further and let you know the criteria as soon as I possibly can.

Government Guidance: <https://get-help-with-tech.education.gov.uk/internet-access>

We are acutely aware that for many of our families supporting primary aged children with their remote education presents a real challenge, especially if you are juggling working from home or have several children all needing to use the devices at the same time. Secondary aged children are much better placed to be able to access remote learning independently, join live lessons and interact more effectively.

It is for these reasons that we have tried to make our provision as flexible as possible so that you can move the timetable and tasks around in a way that works best for your own family situation. We are also mindful that live sessions for different year groups could overlap so we have made the decision to offer a live class drop in session each day. Once Teams is fully functional, children will be invited to join a live class session towards the end of each school day. If they are able to join this session they will have the opportunity to see their class friends, ask any questions about their work, receive feedback, have misconceptions addressed, listen to the teacher read the class text and hear what the work for the next day will be. Please don't worry if your child(ren) can't join the live session every day as we know families with several children may need to create a rota for the attendance at these sessions across the week.

Below is a suggested timetable for a remote learning day. Classes will follow this in school but, as I've said, if you need to swap tasks around at home that is absolutely fine.

Suggested time table for home learning

9am	PE with Joe Wicks (Monday, Wednesday, Friday) or ISingPop worship (Tuesday & Thursday) Cool down and quick drink of water
9.30am	Maths set by the class teacher
10.30am	<i>Break, good drink of water, a healthy snack and a quick pop to the toilet</i>
10.45am	English set by your class teacher (resources can be found in your TEAMS folder)
11.45am	Reading
12.15pm	<i>Lunch break and don't forget to pop to the toilet</i>
1.15pm	Wider curriculum activity (suggestions can be found in your TEAMS folder)
2.15pm	<i>Break, good drink of water and a quick pop to the toilet</i>
2.30pm	Wider curriculum activity continued (This will change to class drop in via Teams once the platform is fully up and running)
3pm	End of home school for today

To keep our approach consistent across the school class teachers will be available for work from 8.40am to 3.20pm. In a morning they will respond to emails sent the previous day and monitor any returned work and levels of engagement with remote learning. We completely understand that for many families, where parents and carers are also working from home, emailing in the evening will be your preferred option. This is why class teachers will have time each morning to access emails. Class teachers will then have time in a morning to plan and resource the work for the following day. Teachers will make sure the work is shared with parents and carers by the end of the school day so you have it in advance and can look at it with your child(ren).

Class teachers will then be supervising the children onsite in the afternoon, as the majority of our Learning Partners do not work afternoons.

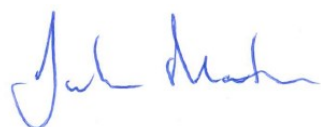
If children finish the remote learning set by their teachers during a school day children should use the time to practice their handwriting, number bonds and timestables and read a good book. There are also lots of useful links on our school website for games and quizzes that will be good fun to try if children have finished everything set for the day and still want more. It may also be a good idea to leave some resources to hand for your child(ren) in case they finish and you are busy on a call (perhaps some construction toys like lego, jigsaw puzzles, suduko, quiz books, art and craft tasks, mindful colouring etc. but please try to avoid time on their consoles as they will already have had a significant amount of screen time).

I have also (hopefully!!!) set up my own Padlet and I would love children to keep in touch and share things they have been getting on with. Just a note of caution that anything that is posted on my Padlet will be seen by the whole school.

Mrs Matson's Padlet: <https://padlet.com/head266/jznfe8l9oi2j3uid>

I know the national lockdown and the threat of COVID creates many challenges and anxieties and we will continue to do our very best to support your children and families. Please do get in touch with us via the office email if there is anything we can do to help.

With best wishes,



Julia Matson
Headteacher