

Brambleside Primary

Newsletter

Friday 8th January 2021

A message from our Headteacher, Mr Brown:

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thanks for your positivity and support for the team and our amazing children this week. We know it has been a huge challenge to adjust to the changes by adapting working commitments and family life to support home learning again. We are very much aware of varying family situations within our community and the difficulties faced by all families including our own in managing home learning. I'd like to mention how impressed I have been with our teachers for adapting so quickly following the announcement on Monday evening to deliver what they have (from their own homes, with their own children and families!) We know that each of you will do an amazing job in supporting the children and the teaching team will be on hand to support you throughout.

We are hopeful that the school server will be fully operational by the end of Monday. It will remain difficult to contact the school office until it is functioning. It may also mean that you cannot access your child's classteacher in the way that you have this week. The classteachers will upload the tasks in the usual way but may not be able to conduct their morning and afternoon meetings. If you are 'Critical' worker parent accessing our on-site provision we will issue a temporary phone number if required (this is also why you have been asked to re-submit your most up-to-date contact information so we can reach you in an emergency.)

If you are 'Critical worker' parent **who has been offered a place for support** please come to the school in the usual way as before Christmas. As mentioned earlier **IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT PARENTS WEAR THEIR MASKS AND STAY 2 METRES AWAY FROM OTHERS. ONLY ONE ADULT SHOULD BE WITH THE CHILD (IF REQUIRED) AND ADULTS MUST EXIT THE SITE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE USING THE ONE-WAY SYSTEM. PLEASE OBSERVE THE LINES NEAR CLASSROOM DOORS AND AT THE OFFICE.** The children on site will be completing the same learning tasks as those who are learning from home.

Thanks for you enduring patience and support,

Stay safe,

Drew Brown

TEAMS IS FREE TO DOWNLOAD – see this and other technical tips at the end of this newsletter.

Reception News

The children in Reception have been amazing this week! Miss Smith & Miss Lawrence have thoroughly enjoyed looking at their pictures and watching the videos the children have been uploading on Tapestry, especially their rhyme time performances. The children have been working hard on their maths and their number time too, learning some new sounds and comparing groups of objects within ten.

All the Reception Staff are incredibly proud of the Reception children and want to say a big thank you to the parents for their support.



Dates for your Diary

Monday 11th January – 'Critical worker' children invited back to school. Please can parents adhere to the strict safety rules mentioned above.

Monday 15th – 22nd February – School closed to 'Critical worker' children for half term.



Year 1 and 2 News

Year 1 and 2 pupils have been fantastic in their commitment to joining the register sessions, completing their maths and English activity and sharing their topic work. On top of this they have been reading books and completing their weekly spellings.



Year 2 have started the multiplication unit in maths and have been recognising equal groups. Year 1 have been continuing work on their phonics and practicing the skill of blending sounds.

Key Stage 1 Teachers would like to thank the children and parents for their patience, support and happy '*morning*' or '*hello*' responses during any communications. It's lovely to hear their cheery voices.

Year 3 and 4 News

Miss Whalley and Mrs Spencer have been extremely impressed this week by the hard work from their classes in such a challenging and unusual time. Children have been patient with technology, demonstrated a mature attitude

to learning and have shown a responsibility for their work. Thank you also to the parents for their continuing support and commitment to aiding their children's learning.

Year 4 - What a week! Mr MacLaren and Miss Mataria are so proud of the work that has been completed on Teams by Year 4. We're all still learning but we're learning together and we feel a great positive community spirit. Let's keep up the good work next week!

Year 5 and 6 News

We have been extremely impressed with children's attitudes and adaptation to home learning this week! Well done to children and parents for persevering and learning lots of new skills. Their patience and understanding are much appreciated. Year 5 have been learning about the globe, by revising the continents of the world. We have started learning about fractions and have been comparing lifecycles of different animals.

In Year 6, children have consolidated their learning about simplifying fractions in Maths and have explored different word classes in Grammar. They have also started learning about Electricity in Science by looking at electrical components and circuits.



Picture News

This week's Picture News is about Pets.
For discussion at home with your children:

Story: Some pets bought on impulse at the beginning of lockdown are being rehomed.

Question: Should anyone be allowed to buy a pet?

Virtual Assembly: Found on the Picture News website, just add **/discuss**



Technical tips and support

It's been a time when we've all been thrown in at the deep end, having to get to grips with new technology that will enable your child to learn online. It can be daunting, especially if sharing equipment or not familiar with Teams or technology in general. Please don't be discouraged if you're still having difficulties, we're all learning together. We understand it's a unique position we all find ourselves in. Here are some common issues that may help to learn about;

Teams is free to download. A few teachers have received emails from parents saying they can't access Teams and ask if they have to pay? No, payment is not necessary. The free link below downloads Teams:

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/microsoft-365/microsoft-teams/group-chat-software?ltid=searchPromo>

This website explains you can get it for free if you enter your school email address when asked online

<https://www.cnet.com/how-to/how-to-get-microsoft-365-for-free/>

And, finally, if you type in your child's email address (first initial, surname then school email address) you should get free access. For instance, a child named 'Elsie Jones' would have the following email:

`ejones@bramblesideacademytrust.co.uk`

How to upload your child's assignments: Here is a link to a step-by-step guide to add work:

<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/turn-in-an-assignment-in-microsoft-teams-e25f383a-b747-4a0b-b6d5-a2845a52092b>

Working on a laptop and no printer? If you're a parent struggling to upload handwritten work from **paper** onto Teams because you don't have a printer (and using a laptop), try downloading the Teams App onto your phone if possible. This will enable you to take a picture of your child's work on your phone, sign into Teams on your phone and then upload the pictures direct from phone.

