



Bishop John Robinson CE Primary School

Head Teacher: Mr Matthew Harris

Assistant Head Teachers: Mrs Kim Valentine & Miss Sarah Biney
School Business Manager: Mrs Karen Fletcher

Hoveton Road, Thamesmead

London SE28 8LW

Tel: 0208 310 9160

Fax: 0208 320 8637

Email: admin@bjr.greenwich.sch.uk

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Dear Parents/Carers

We are now beginning our second week in a national lockdown, after the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday 4th January. What a busy week it has been. We had already been making plans for a short term closure due high infection rates in Greenwich, but in his television address, Mr Johnson announced that school will be closed to most pupils until at least February half term, with children learning remotely during this period of closure.

We have been incredibly proud of how well the BJR community has come together and adapted to remote learning. With minimal notice, staff have: adapted lessons and resources, ensuring that high quality learning is up and running; created home learning packs for those who cannot access Google Classroom; set up classrooms ready for critical worker children and vulnerable children who need to attend school; implemented rotas; organised food packages to be collected from school plus so much more. Pupils have interacted effectively through Google Classroom in the first week of the closure: with some excellent work being submitted. Questions have been asked to clarify learning and test out their ideas, as well as supporting one another in becoming familiar with the technology and how to upload and access different parts of the work. They have shown just how resilient and adaptable they are - we really could not be prouder!

Thank you to our families for their messages of support and thanks for the work being done – it really does mean a lot at this time. We know this is not easy and that some of you are feeling overwhelmed and stressed by the pressure of it all. So with that in mind, we wanted to point out a few things –

1. This is not 'Home Schooling' – this is an unprecedented emergency situation that is impacting across the world. Home schooling is a choice – where you choose to educate your child at home. This is distance learning and we are all learning together to try to do our best for our children.
2. Reading is one of the most important parts of your child's education, so ensure that they read every day – it could be a comic, a newspaper, a blog or a book. Anything that motivates them to read!
3. You are, and always have been, your child's primary educator. If your child is struggling with on line learning one day, and it is all too much. You have the right to stop and to do something else. Your child is still learning when they are baking, enjoying stories, completing puzzles and playing imaginatively. Please do not feel guilty or become stressed over it – just try again tomorrow.



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4. Sometimes it is just not possible to support distance learning and work from home at the same time. We recognise this, in fact many of us are having the same difficulties. If some days are tough, then stop for a bit and try again later or on another day. We understand that your focus needs to be on your work – your family needs you to do that in order to survive. Please do not feel guilty about it!

Remember, you are doing enough. You are loving your children, keeping them safe and supporting them through a difficult time. Look after yourselves too and minimise stress – this is vital for your whole family's wellbeing.

Moving forward, we will continue to use Google Classroom as our platform for remote learning. Teachers will continue to upload work each day for your children to complete, using a range of resources. Your child should submit their work through Google Classroom wherever possible, for Early Years pupils work can also be submitted via ClassDojo. This enables the teachers to see the children's work and provide feedback.

If you are having any difficulties with submitting your child's work, please let the teacher know via comments on Google Classroom or emailing admin@bjrps.net. Please remember that teachers are available at all times during the usual school day via Google Classroom – so please ensure that if there is anything you or your child are unsure about you ask the questions – the teacher will respond as soon as they are able to.

From this week, school will be contacting parents of pupils who are not engaging with the learning on Google Classroom and have not already notified us of any difficulties with accessing this. You will also receive a telephone call from staff regularly to check in on each child's welfare during this unprecedented time and see if there is any support that is needed for them.

If you have any questions regarding home learning or how to support your children at home, please do contact us. We are all learning together and if you need help, we are here to support you.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Matthew Harris
Headteacher

Mrs Kim Valentine
Assistant Head Teacher

Miss Sarah Biney
Assistant Head Teacher