



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

Thursday, 4th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the announcement by the government, and subsequent guidance from the Department for Education, our current lockdown is due to continue for the first two weeks after the February half term break. The national plan is for schools to resume from Monday 8th March, although this is still to be confirmed. We have been assured that we will be given two weeks' notice, so as soon as it is confirmed, I shall write to inform you.

In the meantime, I wanted to update you with events at school and at home.

On Monday this week, we held a virtual governors' meeting, where they conducted a 'deep dive' mini-inspection into our remote learning provision. Governors used guidance from the DfE, as well as examples of best practice from other schools, to consider whether we are meeting our school vision of "being the best we can be" during lockdown.

Governors were very impressed with the range of home learning available to pupils: commenting that the correlation between the work provided on Google Classroom and Class Dojo matched with the paper-based packs, enabling pupils to complete a hybrid of online and paper-based work. Governors were also impressed with the attention to detail in providing pupils with any necessary stationery to complete their work, the assurance to parents that pupils can work both online and on paper, and still be able to consolidate and grow their learning.

We were also able to demonstrate the consistency of pupils logging onto Google Classroom and registering before they begin their work, with around 70% of the school (138 children!) online most days, and how all work submitted is being marked by our staff to give pupils feedback and support. We shared details of our Zoom calls as part of our welfare checks, to offer emotional support for our pupils and families. We were also able to give examples of how our Early Years and Foundation Stage pupils are sharing stories, activities and home learning adventures via ClassDojo.

The governors and I also wanted to reassure parents and carers that we understand that this is not elected home schooling, and we do not expect parents and carers to 'teach' their children. (Home schooling is a specific choice for parents to educate their children at home.) We are currently learning remotely under a national lockdown, meaning teachers and support staff are available online, via telephone or in school to support children with their learning.

As a Dad myself, I fully appreciate the difficulty of supporting children learning at home whilst trying to fulfil my professional role, and I also appreciate that sometimes, patience runs thin, tempers can flare and it just isn't feasible. Please do not worry about your child taking a break (or 10!) from their work – your family's mental health and wellbeing are equally important. Not all learning needs to be written down: it can be a short video, an artistic representation, a discussion as a family or even an experience, e.g. making lunch or even vacuuming the carpet!





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I always welcome feedback and would like to share two points, which have been raised by parents and carers recently. Firstly, we have made some updates to our school website

(www.BishopJohnRobinsonPrimary.co.uk) which include:

- a Prayer Request page,
- a link to our local Foodbank,
- an order form for our Uniform Bank, which is now being managed by our wonderful Parents as Partners,
- information about our remote learning, and
- updated information about our curriculum.

If you have any suggestions for further improvements to our website, please let the school office know.

Secondly, in light of the pandemic, our behaviour rules in school have been temporarily adjusted (and agreed by governors). Leaving a designated area without adult permission, spitting or physically hurting other children were previously categorised as a Tier 2 sanction. However, as pupils must not cross bubbles, get too close to one another or risk transmission of bodily fluids, these three behaviours have been upgraded to a Tier 3 to reflect the severity of these behaviours at this time. During lockdown, we are less able to move a child to another classroom as a sanction. As agreed last summer by Mrs Richardson and the governors during the first lockdown, pupils may be sent home as a safer alternative sanction. As always, the safety and welfare of pupils and staff is our paramount concern.

We are blessed that no staff or pupils have become critically ill with Coronavirus, but many of our families have sadly suffered loss and bereavement as a result of the pandemic. We are offering support to pupils and their families, either in school or virtually, to support them with their loss and grief. We are joining in prayer with families and the wider local church to ask for God's comfort in these difficult times. We are also offering support to other local schools, who are grieving the deaths of staff or pupils. If you are able and willing, please join us in praying for the safety and protection of our pupils, our staff and our families.

Let all who take refuge in the Lord be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread Your protection over them, that those who love Your name may rejoice in You. Psalm 5:11.

As always, if you have any concerns, questions or worries, or would like to arrange a chat with someone from the school, please contact the school office. Alternatively, if we can pray for you, please visit our website to send in your prayer request.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Matthew Harris

Headteacher