

Bakewell Methodist Junior School  
Stoney Close  
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Derbyshire Healthy Schools  
Community Award



[www.bakewell-jun.derbyshire.sch.uk](http://www.bakewell-jun.derbyshire.sch.uk)

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Headteacher, Mrs Sarah Owens

8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

### **Dear Parents and Carers**

I hope you have got into the swing of having your children at home this week. None of us could have predicted this scenario and I think teachers and parents are doing as well as they can. Teachers were prepared to see all of your children face to face and, as you could see from my earlier letter, would have been in school. They have had to change their plans at very short notice and there will inevitably be some problems to iron out.

### **How we will help**

Many of you have already been in touch and this is welcome. Please do not hesitate to contact school. Mrs Jenkins is in school from Monday to Thursday and I am here every day. I will try to make sure I speak to a parent of all our children in the next few weeks.

### **What to expect**

Each teacher will plan 3 hours of activities per day for each class to start with. This will increase as we all get into the swing of it. If it is not taking your child 45 minutes to 1 hour to do the maths and English work, please have a look at it with them. We have noticed that some children open the work and click that they have done it, but very little work has been done.

Tasks will vary. This means the teachers can use a variety of resources to try to keep the interest of the children. Sometimes the teachers will set work from Oak Academy or from White Rose but most of the English and maths will be your child's teacher explaining a PowerPoint.

During a lesson at school in a classroom the teacher would be able to see who is losing motivation, who is finding it difficult and who needs praise and encouragement. They can do none of this and we have to rely on the adult supervising your child to keep them going and provide this positive feedback.

We will not be doing 'live' lessons. I am worried about the safety of these for the age of our children. To have any real advantage over the recorded lessons we would have to ask the children to have video and sound on. I have seen this used in music tuition very successfully but only on a one to one basis. Teachers would have little control over what shared by the children and for us the risks outweigh any advantages there may be.

### **Managing passwords**

Passwords are going to be an issue from time to time. Please ask- they are easy to change.

If your child is attending school for one of the allowed reasons, they will need access to their own Teams account both at school and at home. They will need to bring their password with them to school. If they can't remember it we will reset it at school.

### **Expectation of what should be completed by your child**

During the first lockdown, the curriculum was suspended and there was no expectation that learning would continue. **This is no longer the case.** In September 2020 the requirement to resume delivering the curriculum was communicated to schools and this is still in place. All children will be expected to complete 3 hours of work each day, at the moment. This will increase to 4 hours shortly. Teachers have been asked to ensure children are completing tasks and that they give meaningful feedback. Teachers will be giving feedback at the end of each day.

Please ensure that your children are opening the work set for them and that they are working through it in the way described by the teacher. If the video says stop and have a go, then get your child to do that. If the longer task suggest it might take 3 afternoons then, encourage your child to make that much effort.

If you could get up to date with your child's work over this weekend they will be ready for their new lessons on Monday.

If your child is coming into school part-time, you will need to makes sure they complete the work on the days they are at home so they can join in with the group lessons on the days they are in school.

If your child has been given a place to attend school full time, all the work will be managed at school, but don't forget to read everyday with your child and show an interest in the work they have been doing.

I will be contacting parents whose children have not completed this week's work on Monday to offer support with this.

### **Communication**

I will keep you up to date with school events through texts, the website and on Teams. We are working on strengthening this by the use of emails. If you have a general enquiry please email [info@bakewell-jun.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:info@bakewell-jun.derbyshire.sch.uk) or phone the office 01629 812389. If it is of a more personal or private nature please email [sowens@bakewell-jun.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:sowens@bakewell-jun.derbyshire.sch.uk)

### **Concerns and complaints**

We are trying really hard to make this difficult situation work for all our children and families; we will occasionally get things wrong. If you are concerned about anything please let us know so we can put it right. If you are not satisfied with the response you get you can complain to the Governors by using the *Complaints Procedure* on our website. You may, of course contact, OFSTED but they will ask if you have raised the issue with the school first.

### **Following the rules**

All the staff at school are strictly following the rules to prevent the further spread of this virus. I must ask that if you are sending your child to school you must ensure that you are doing this too. I have a duty to keep all our children safe, so if it were brought to my attention that families are breaking the rules, I would take advice on whether this should be reported.

This is information from [www.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

You must not leave, or be outside of your home except where necessary. You may leave the home to:

- shop for basic necessities, for you or a vulnerable person
- go to work, or provide voluntary or charitable services, if you cannot reasonably do so from home
- exercise with your household (or support bubble) or one other person, this should be limited to once per day, and you should not travel outside your local area.
- meet your [support bubble](#) or [childcare bubble](#) where necessary, **but only if you are legally permitted to form one**
- seek medical assistance or avoid injury, illness or risk of harm (including domestic abuse)
- attend education or childcare - for those eligible

You may be able to form a bubble but these are the rules:-

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/making-a-support-bubble-with-another-household#who-can-make-a-support-bubble>

You can form a support bubble with another household of any size if:

- you live by yourself – even if carers visit you to provide support
- you are the only adult in your household who does not need continuous care as a result of a disability
- your household includes a child who is under the age of **one** or was under that age on 2 December 2020
- your household includes a child with a disability who requires continuous care and is under the age of 5, or was under that age on 2 December 2020
- you are aged 16 or 17 living with others of the same age and without any adults
- you are a **single** adult living with one or more children who are under the age of 18 or were under that age on 12 June 2020

### Getting help

We understand that working from home and supporting your child with online learning is difficult. You need a routine and some strategies. I will write to you again with some suggestions but in the meantime if you are finding it difficult, please get in touch- we will be able to help.

*'Facts not fear. Clean hands. Open hearts.'*

Yours sincerely  
Sarah Owens