

20th April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you are all safe and well and that you managed to enjoy the Easter break as much as possible. Despite all of the current hardship, at least the weather has remained good over the past two weeks. Today marks the start of the summer term. A time where the children would normally be arriving at school in their summer uniform, with their hats, water bottles and sun cream at the ready. Unfortunately, this will have to remain on hold until we are able to fully re-open.

School Closure Status

Sadly, but rightly so, we will not be re-opening for at least three weeks, following the government's instruction that the lockdown will continue for this length of time. Whilst there has been lots of speculation in the media over the last few days, Gavin Williamson (Secretary of State for Education), reiterated yesterday afternoon that schools will only reopen when the scientific advice suggests that it is safe to do so. We do not know, at this stage, when this will be and what the re-opening may look like. I have had a lot of people asking me recently, including my members of my own family, when schools will be opening again and what arrangements will be in place. I am in the same position as you, I simply do not know. Although we all want schools to reopen and for things to return to normal, it has to happen when it is safe to do so. Your children's safety (and our own) is paramount and as difficult as this whole situation is, health and safety comes first. Of course, if and when I know more, I will let you all know.

Current Advice

As I stated above, the current government advice is that the national lockdown was extended for a further three weeks, as of last Thursday. The daily briefing on BBC 1 is the best way to keep up to speed with the latest advice, however I suggest that you do not watch the news all day as it can consume your whole world at this time. The public advice remains the same as it was at my last time of writing. Please see below:



Stay at home

- Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home)
- If you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home
- Do not meet others, even friends or family
- You can spread the virus even if you do not have symptoms

Every child, Every chance, Every day

With regards to symptoms, the same advice that I previously shared applies;

You **MUST** stay at home and self-isolate for **14 days** if you, or anyone in your household has either of the following symptoms;

- **a high temperature (37.8°C and above)**
- **a new continuous cough**

If you live with someone who has symptoms, you will need to self-isolate for 14 days from the day their symptoms started. This is because it can take 14 days for symptoms to appear.

If more than one person at home has symptoms, self-isolate for 14 days from the day the first person started having symptoms.

If you get symptoms, self-isolate for 7 days from when your symptoms start, even if it means you are self-isolating for longer than 14 days.

Contact Information

We have set up the following email addresses for you to use to send work, photos of your child's learning and any other learning related queries. Your child's teacher or key stage leader will then be able to respond to you in due course. Please be aware that teachers will not always be able to give detailed feedback on individual pieces of work. You should also send any competition entries to the relevant email address below too.

If your child is in Early Years, please email efys@beecroftacademy.co.uk. Parents of Early Years children can also use Tapestry, as normal, for correspondence too.

If your child is in Year 1 or Year 2, please email ks1@beecroftacademy.co.uk

If your child is in Year 3 or Year 4, please email lks2@beecroftacademy.co.uk

If your child is in Year 5 or Year 6, please email uks2@beecroftacademy.co.uk

The office email address, office@beecroftacademy.co.uk, should still be used for all general enquiries.

As previously, please email wellbeing@beecroftacademy.co.uk for any wellbeing and safeguarding concerns. Miss Clark and Mrs Saunders monitor this email address.

For any SEN queries please email sendco@beecroftacademy.co.uk. Mrs Mitchell and Mrs Saunders monitor this email address.

Twitter

Alternatively, any work or photos can be sent to use via Twitter- [@BeecroftAcademy](https://twitter.com/BeecroftAcademy). If you do not already, please set up an account and follow us. We are tweeting very regularly at present and often share links to useful resources and websites on here.

Website

The 'Home Learning' section of the website has been reorganised over the last few weeks in order to make it more user friendly. There is now a drop-down menu, which includes subject pages for each year group. I hope that you will find this easier to use, however please use the correspondence methods above should you have any problems. Information will continue to be added to the website on a regular basis.

Stories and Assemblies

Like before the Easter break, the staff will be sharing their favourite stories with the children on a daily basis. Two new stories will be added to the website every day.

I will also continue to film a weekly celebration assembly every Friday afternoon. During this assembly, I will share some of the work that has been sent in and reveal any competition winners. Please do send as much work as possible over, as this is by far the most exciting part of my week! As I do not want any of my staff being poached by Hollywood, I have password protected both of these pages! Please see information below:

Stories- https://www.beecroftacademy.co.uk/home_learning/stories/stories.html

Username: story

Password: story

Assemblies- https://www.beecroftacademy.co.uk/home_learning/assemblies/assemblies.html

Username: assembly

Password: assembly

Competitions

A range of weekly competitions are available on the website for the children to take part in. Please follow this link- https://www.beecroftacademy.co.uk/home_learning/competitions/competitions.html
All entries to be emailed or tweeted.

Daily Lessons and Resources

As well as the resources and competitions that we have created as a school, the government has been working alongside BBC Bitesize and Oak National Academy to provide daily online lessons for children of all ages. These platforms can be accessed via our website using the link below. The BBC Bitesize lessons can also be accessed via Smart televisions.

https://www.beecroftacademy.co.uk/home_learning/suggested_timetables/timetable.html

Structure

As I have said before, although it is important to keep structure to your days at home, please do not try to replicate the school day exactly. Try to plan for your child to complete a range of focussed and creative tasks each day, as well as giving them some free time at regular intervals. The resources that we have on our website and the daily lessons that we have mentioned above will support you with this. The main focus is to keep your children safe and happy. This is a very difficult time for them too. I wrote in more detail about this in one of my blogs, please click on the following link to read this:

[https://www.beecroftacademy.co.uk/documents/%5B414760%5DHeadteacher Blog-2nd Edition.pdf](https://www.beecroftacademy.co.uk/documents/%5B414760%5DHeadteacher%20Blog-2nd%20Edition.pdf)

Food

Those families who are in receipt of free school meals, should now be receiving weekly vouchers from Edenred, the government's chosen scheme. If you are eligible, however and have not received your voucher, please email office@beecroftacademy.co.uk. There has been some confusion regarding 'free school meals' and 'universal free school meals'. Universal free school meals is a government funded initiative, whereby every child in Early Years, Year 1 or Year 2 receives a school meal, when in school. Free school meals is additional funding for the school based on family income support. Information was sent out about this earlier in the year, however, if you feel that you may be eligible; please follow this link- <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>.

We also recognise that this is an incredibly challenging time financially for many and I want to make you aware that we have links with local foodbanks that may be able to support you. If your family is struggling for food, please email wellbeing@beecroftacademy.co.uk, who will be able to assist you. Please do not be afraid or embarrassed to ask for help or guidance - these are unrepresented times and we will do all that we possibly can to support you.

May I take this opportunity to, yet again, thank you all for your continued support throughout this difficult time. Your kind words and messages are hugely appreciated.

I finish this letter by once again passing on to you all my heartfelt best wishes for you and your families at this time. We have all, some more than others, been impacted by the Coronavirus and it is important that we remain united. I encourage you to stay connected with friends, family and of course the school.

Thank you for staying home and staying safe.

Yours sincerely



Mr Nick Hackett
Headteacher