

Dear Parents and Carers

**RE: Learning from home update**

School has been closed to most families for 4 weeks now and we would like to start by thanking our community for their support during this time. In recent phone calls and emails with families there have been a lot of positive comments and messages of thanks. There have also been some queries about the learning we are providing.

As Term 4 ended, our main focus was to provide learning that was familiar to pupils in order to help families establish a way of children learning from home, while also balancing the needs of adults who needed to work from home too.

As we have moved into Term 5, you will have seen a slight change in the learning as children start to encounter new units, new concepts and new knowledge. This is a good time for us to explain our rationale behind how we are choosing to deliver this learning.

**New Learning Rationale:**

- Research based
- Easily accessible for all families regardless of IT access and access to specialist equipment (e.g. magnets, poster paints, mathematical manipulatives etc...)
- Limited screen time
- Broad range of activities and curriculum areas that follow the CLF curriculum
- Tasks that allow a level of independence that is appropriate for the age
- Mindful of collective family workload
- Mindful of teacher's collective family workload
- New units, concepts and knowledge only if appropriate
- As joy filled as possible

I would like to take this opportunity to say how incredibly proud we are of all the staff at Begbrook who have worked so hard over the past few weeks to adapt to this new way of working, and who have ensured that your children continue to receive support from us in the best way we can.

Kind regards,

Laurie Munro

### **FAQs:**

Q: How can I best support my child's learning at home?

A: We would expect all primary age children to need some amount of guidance to be able to access the learning and complete it. This will vary from child to child and their age will also have an impact.

**All** children will need support with establishing a routine that is supportive to learning from home.

**Most** children will need an adult to explain the learning tasks, answer any questions and provide support and reassurance if they get stuck.

**Younger children** (EYFS and Year 1) will require more adult guidance throughout each task. There may be times when older children also require more adult guidance if they are unsure about what they are being asked to do.

At Begbrook we find that most children can concentrate for a number of minutes equivalent to their age in years plus 2. For example, a six year old will be able to concentrate and focus for around 8 minutes before needing a change of focus through questionings, conversation, movement break etc... There may be days or some tasks when you child is able to focus for longer or shorter amounts of time. This is normal and will depend on the level of challenge. You know your children best so you will probably recognise very quickly when they need a change of focus and remember it is fine to take a break and come back to the learning at a later point.

If you are keen to read about ways to best support your child at home, you can click [here](#) to read the guidance reports created by the Education Endowment Foundation and based in current research.

Q: How can parents keep in contact with the teachers and the school?

A: Each year group has a designated year group email in box that is regularly checked during school hours and days. You can use this email address to contact teachers about the learning or any concerns and they will be able to respond to you either via email or phone depending on what is most appropriate. If you have a more general question then please email the [info@bpa.cabot.ac.uk](mailto:info@bpa.cabot.ac.uk) mailbox

Class Teachers and support staff are making regular phone calls (usually every 3/4 weeks) to all families so please use this as an opportunity to share any questions or concerns you have.

Q: How can we access the daily learning?

A: The daily learning is emailed in the afternoon ready for the next day. It is also uploaded on to the year group webpages. You can access the learning for other year groups via the websites should you wish to (see end of the letter).

Q: Why are there videos on YouTube?

A: We have chosen to use YouTube as a way to deliver content when appropriate to support and supplement the learning. It is also a great way for the children to regularly see familiar adults. YouTube has been chosen as the platform to share this content as it is easily accessible on many different devices including smart TVs.

Q - Can the home learning be sent all at once for the whole week instead of daily?

A : Generating the daily tasks and the videos to supplement requires a significant amount of time. Unfortunately, at this time we have not had enough time to get ahead of ourselves and produce future lessons. We are working on producing unit overviews so you can see where the learning is heading. We are also mindful of not overwhelming parents and children, and we have found that small, manageable tasks are most supportive of this.

Q: Can all of the learning be online lessons?

A: For some families there may only be one device in a household to be shared between children for learning and adults for work, so we have consciously chosen not to rely on being able to use a device to complete all of the learning. For a large proportion of learning, the daily task sheet can be read and then the learning completed away from a device.

Q: What should we do if my child has read all of the reading books and their exercise books are nearly full?

A: We are currently arranging the safest way for parents to collect new reading books and exercise books while still following the social distancing guidance. We will be updating you about this very soon. In the meantime, please make sure every page of the exercise books have been used and you can use other paper that you have in the home. The learning doesn't have to be in the exercise books. There are thousands of online reading books for free that you can access. Website links are at the bottom of this page.

Q: Will there be an opportunity for teachers to mark the learning and give feedback?

A: If you would like feedback on the learning please email a photo to the year group mailbox and the year group teachers will respond to you. We appreciate your comments and feedback via email as it helps us to plan the next sequence of learning.

Q: Can hard copies of learning be posted?

A: Unfortunately, we are unable to post learning as the teachers do not have access to printers while working from home. If you are finding accessing the learning tricky then please speak with your child's teacher so they can better understand your situation.

Q: Can there be more learning?

A: We are aware that children may not be able to focus in the same way that they can at school and we know that it may be more difficult to feel motivated or engaged in the learning when they are not in their usual learning environment with their teacher. Therefore, we have kept the tasks short, manageable and age appropriate. All the learning is based on the CLF curriculum so will build on previous learning and will support future learning. We have also signposted appropriate websites where further learning can be accessed to supplement the BPA learning. The following websites are recent additions to the list:

<https://learn.clf.uk/>

This website was launched within the last few weeks and has learning created by CLF teachers. All learning is based on the CLF curriculum.

[www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize)

The BBC has recently updated many of its online resources.

<https://www.thenational.academy/online-classroom/>

This is a new platform created by the government and all the lessons cover objectives from the National Curriculum.

At the bottom of the daily task sheet is a suggested daily timetable to help families manage the time. While this is only a suggestion, having a routine during the week can help children and adults. You may want to adjust the timetable to suit you.

Q: When will schools reopen?

A: At the point of writing this letter, we do not have a date for schools reopening but we are working behind the scenes to ensure that we have a robust plan in place for when a date is confirmed. As soon as we know more, we will make sure this is shared with the school community. However, in front of the Education Select Committee the Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson, indicated that schools are likely to return to a fuller state of opening only via a gradual phased approach.



Q: Can teachers run live lessons?

A: We know that the children are missing the social aspect of school and seeing their friends. There have been requests for us to set up class 'Zoom' style meetings. While this is not something we as a school can currently facilitate, we know it has been well received by children when organised by groups of parents.

Currently, CLF safeguarding policies state staff are unable to conduct online meetings with pupils, and we have been advised against participating in group video calls with children. This is to protect staff from allegations. Whilst we recognise that interacting with a teacher would be fantastic for the children we hope that the YouTube videos make up for this.

**Twitter:**

<https://twitter.com/BegbrookAcademy>

**Year group website pages:**

<https://bpanursery.wordpress.com/>

<https://bpareception.wordpress.com/>

<https://bpayear1.wordpress.com/>

<https://bpayear2.wordpress.com/>

<https://bpayear3.wordpress.com/>

<https://bpayear4.wordpress.com/>

<https://bpayearfive.wordpress.com/>

<https://bpayear6.wordpress.com/>

**Begbrook YouTube Channel:**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoGplyounpR4wb2vtNN3K6A>

## **Free online Reading Resources:**

### **The Book Trust**

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/have-some-fun/storybooks-and-games/>

The Book Trust have lots of classic interactive stories read aloud on their website. They also have story time videos to watch.

### **Oxford Owl**

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/books/free-ebooks/>

Here there is a range of e-books sorted by age. You may want to look at some of the books aimed at younger children, as reading these together can be great to support your child develop their fluency and expression whilst reading. You do need to register to read the ebooks but they are all free.

### **Harper Collins 'Big Cat'**

We don't use these reading books at school but there is a huge range of books available. You can read the book by itself, or listen along to the story being read.

Follow this link to log in : <https://connect.collins.co.uk/school/teacherlogin.aspx>

Username: [parents@harpercollins.co.uk](mailto:parents@harpercollins.co.uk)

Password: Parents20!

### **MyOn**

(<https://readon.myon.co.uk/>)

This website has thousands of online books to read for free and they cover a wide range of genres. When you have selected a book, you can read it yourself or have it read to you.

The website covers both non-fiction and fiction.

There is no log in necessary.