



Bicton C of E Primary School and Nursery

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Friday 15th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, we would like to say a huge and very sincere thank you for all the support you have given your child/children with remote learning over the past 10 days. We are so proud and impressed with how the children have adapted to this new way of learning and it is wonderful to see so many of them in the daily Teams meetings.

We know that supporting children's learning at home is a challenge in itself, without trying to juggle your own commitments, so please let your child's teacher/s know if there is anything in particular you or your child need further support with.

Since we wrote to you last Friday, we have further developed our remote learning provision to try and make the experience as close to school life as possible. We thought it would be useful to answer some frequently asked questions below.

What time are the daily Teams meetings held?

The times will differ for each class, to try and accommodate families where more than one child is learning from home. Please see the meeting times for your child's class in their Teams calendar.

In Rowan/Maple/Oak, teachers will lead 2 daily Teams meetings as follows:

- Meeting 1: morning check-in and English input.
- Meeting 2: separate Maths input and explanation of afternoon task.
- These meetings are an opportunity for teachers to discuss methods, for children to ask and answer questions, to address any misconceptions, and to share examples of work.
- Oak will also be holding meetings on some afternoons to discuss afternoon tasks.

In Hazel, teachers will lead 2 daily Teams meetings: a Year 1 meeting followed by a separate Year 2 meeting.

Recurring meetings will be scheduled so that families know what time they will take place. We are continuing to 'tweak' the times of the meetings in Year 3/4 so keep an eye on Maple/Rowan calendars.

How do I join the meeting?

Click on the meeting in the calendar then click on the **Join** button. Alternatively, you can join on a scheduled meeting by clicking on the post in the **General - Posts** area of Teams. We have amended the settings in Teams so that children can join automatically and do not have to wait for school to admit them to a meeting.

Does my child have to join every meeting?

We are trying to keep things as normal for children as we possibly can. If they can't join the morning meetings every day, we would like them to join as often as they can. This is so we can provide teaching input, answer questions and also celebrate successes and achievements from previous tasks.

What happens if my child does not join the meetings?

Teachers will attempt to make contact with parents via Class Dojo first. If they do not hear back from parents, the school office will try to make contact – this is to check that everything is ok and to see if any support is needed from school.

Can my child use the Chat or Meet function to communicate with their friends?

The Primary Education settings have been applied to Teams, which prevents children from setting up their own chats and arranging video meetings between them and other children without being supervised. We do not have the capacity to supervise chats or meetings and, for safeguarding/acceptable use reasons, any such chats/calls must be supervised.

We are looking at the timetable to see where we can schedule a meeting for a general class catch-up each week but, in the meantime, we hope that children will be reassured by seeing their peers when they join the daily meetings.

How often will my child receive feedback on the work they submit?

Teachers and support staff will provide feedback on children's maths and English work that is handed in on the day the assignment is set and up to 24 hours after but feedback may not be given on every piece of work. We are trying to balance providing education for the high number of children still attending school and those learning remotely from home so we need to keep things manageable for everyone.

Feedback will also be given in other subjects and general feedback will be given verbally in the daily meetings.

Your support over the last 10 days has been really appreciated and we will continue to develop the provision with you for as long as the lockdown is in place. We value any feedback you are able to provide and please contact us straightaway if something is not working for you as it is important that we get through this together.

Thank you and take care

Mrs Johnson and staff x