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Prime Minister announcement 8pm Monday 4th Jan

Dear Parents/Carers,

A caveat before I start this letter is that information is being updated regularly and the following is where we stand at the moment. What we do now know is that face-to-face schooling for all but children of key workers and vulnerable children (referred to from now on as KWV) will not recommence until after the February half term at the earliest.

Our plan for remote learning has been being developed over the last term as you will know from your Google Classroom trials throughout the autumn term. The teachers are now setting up the work to start from tomorrow for all children. We do have KWV children in school today (many schools have shut in their entirety for today) who are engaging in different activities, but as of tomorrow will be undertaking the same work as the children taught remotely.

The remote learning policy is attached for you. Each child will be provided with approximately 3 hrs worth of lessons per day. These will consist of an English lesson, a maths lesson and one other subject. For at least the first two weeks all classes will be following the same pattern of subjects. In addition, there will be work from teachers regarding spellings, reading and multiplication tables (and/or number bonds)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
English	English	English	English	English
Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths
Humanities (Geography or History)	Science	Religious Education	Music* and PE	Art

KWV children will need to wear school uniform Monday to Wednesday, PE kit Thursday and old clothes on Friday. All KWV children will attend school from 8:40 to 15:15 and enter through the same locations as the autumn term.

Whilst we intend to be flexible with Key Worker provision (in that if you can support your children without the need of the school then please do so, but notify us where this is not the case), to ensure stability this will be on a full day basis i.e. 8:40 – 15:15 and not ad hoc times.



The staff will be teaching the children the same content as that provided via Google Classroom and will look to give feedback as is possible and appropriate throughout the school day. Please do not expect an immediate response as the staff will be teaching whilst also monitoring the online learning. Where specific lessons are being taught, these will primarily link to Oak Academy online lessons.

Google Classroom tips

- Ensure you have signed out of any private accounts and are only signed in using your Bury account
- Sign in to Google Classroom through a web browser rather than the app (this is the case on a table, phone or any other device), the functionality is better and you should encounter less glitches
- Email the kestrels@bury.school, sparrowhawks@bury.school, or buzzards@bury.school addresses if you are encountering any issues (such as needing to locate your child's password)

Oak Academy tip

- Use Chrome to access the lessons

Children who are learning remotely will receive more written feedback than those present in class. In class there will be small groups with each adult and so a lot of the feedback will be instant and verbal (as it is in class normally).

The teachers will start tomorrow by insisting on basic expectations, spellings, capital letters, punctuation etc. so that we start with high expectations from the outset. If your child receives feedback referring to this, it is because that is what they produce in class and are capable of doing.

In an attempt to give one slot per week in which all children can learn together, Mr Mott is going to try to run his music sessions live. These will all be supported in school by at least one other adult. Our hope is that for 30mins each week, the class can all be present at the same time for some singing. So on Thursdays, if you would like to join live, please follow the link provided on that day to join Mr Mott 13:15 - 13:45 Sparrowhawks, 13:50 - 14:20 Kestrels and 14:30 - 15:00 Buzzards. If the time for this is not convenient then please do not worry about changing things. We simply want to see if it is a session per week that we can offer altogether.

There will be teething problems. Please remember we all found this information out at the same time as yourselves last night. 24hrs before we were expressly being told to plan for all children to be in school and spent aspects of our INSET working on this. We receive no information ahead of the Prime Minister's speech and cannot plan for every eventuality. I have no doubt as we all pull together we will have this running like clockwork shortly, but please bear with us. Please also remember you were not planning for this prior to last night. As much as we would all love to believe every child learns brilliantly 100% of the time and never gets distracted, life is not like that. Some things your child will fly through, others they will struggle, some days will be great, others you will just write-off down to experience.



However it is going, we are here. Please use the class emails to contact the class teachers or head@bury.school to get hold of me.

Thank you all for your speed of response to the form sent yesterday. Thank you also for the words of encouragement and thanks, it was much appreciated at what was undoubtedly a tricky time for yourselves also.

And finally, one bit of excellent news in amongst all of the information we have taken on board of late, Louie Gammon joined the world on 30th December. Both mum and baby are doing well.



Thank you as ever for your continued support. Stay safe and keep smiling.

Thomas Moore,
Headteacher