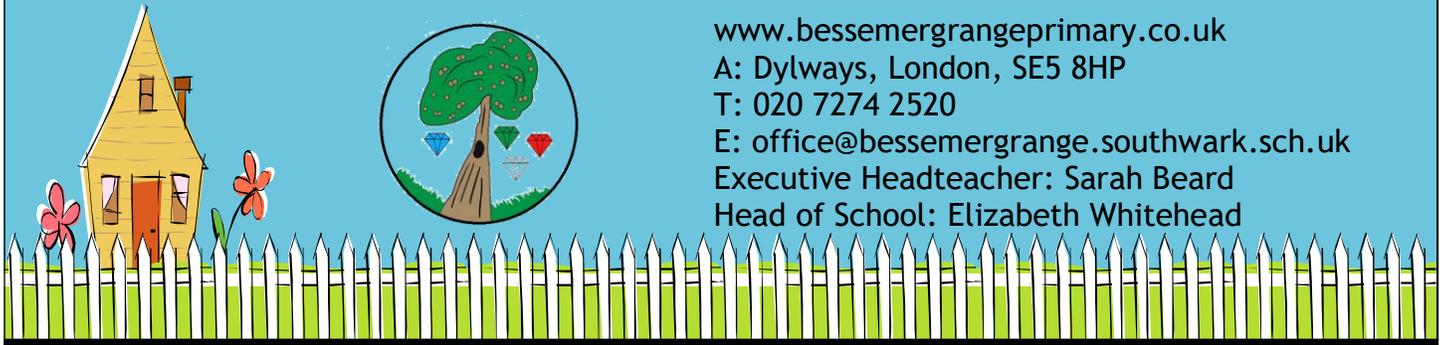


BESSEMER PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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Executive Headteacher: Sarah Beard

Head of School: Elizabeth Whitehead

Dates for your Diary

Monday 15th February - Friday 19th February, half term holiday

News

Online Learning

Thank you to everyone who has been joining their live lessons this week! There were a few technical issues to start with, but most of those have been smoothed out and lessons have been going really well. It is great for the children to have the chance to join in with discussions and ask and answer questions in person so please make sure your child attends their live lesson every day. Please let us know if you struggle to access the live lessons for any reason.

The successful introduction of live lessons completes our online learning offer, which we will be detailing in full on the website next week. We have made the decision to continue with pre-recorded lessons for maths and English as these are much more accessible for children who are sharing devices with parents and siblings as the lessons can be watched at any time. We also believe, and are supported in our view by Ofsted's document *What's Working Well in Remote Education*, that while live lessons are important for children's social and emotional wellbeing, the pre-recorded lessons often deliver teaching more successfully. The videos can be paused and replayed as often as necessary to ensure that children understand the input, and teachers are still available throughout the day on the stream to answer any questions and offer further explanations if needed. We do understand that the vast majority of parents are not teachers and do not expect you to be delivering more teaching than is included in the lessons, if your child does not understand the task please use the stream to ask for help from the teachers.

It is really important that children engage with all of the daily lessons and upload their work in order to receive feedback and inform teachers of their progress or difficulties. We are continuing to make calls to anyone who is not currently submitting work regularly, please let us know what we can do to help. Following feedback that we have received so far, we will be adding tutorials on uploading work to Google Classroom over the next few days.

We understand that printing daily worksheets from Google Classroom is not always possible, if you would like to collect exercise books from school for your children to use for their online lessons instead please email the office and we will arrange a time for these to be collected.

Year 3 Live Lesson Time

Year 3 children's live lessons will be at 11am rather than 3pm from Monday. We know that 3pm is a challenging time to engage children in learning, but were avoiding clashes with other year groups due to the issue of children sharing devices. As all other afternoon slots are taken, the Year 3 teachers have changed their daily timetable to include the live lesson in the morning. Please see the updated timetable on Google Classroom.

Assemblies

Pre-recorded rewards assemblies will be uploaded to Google Classroom today and certificates for the stars, writers and mathematicians of the week will be emailed to you shortly afterwards. Please reassure children who do not receive certificates this week that this does not mean their hard work has not been noticed or appreciated, and that they may be recognised in assembly in coming weeks.

Reading Book Swap

We will continue to facilitate reading book changes for children in Reception and Key Stage One, at the same times each week. If your child is in a different year group but you need some school reading books please email the office and we will let you know when these can be collected.

Free Wifi

Below are some links which you can use to access free wifi to support children's online learning. We also have a limited number of free wifi codes to give out ourselves, so please email the office if you are in need of one.

<https://www.ispreview.co.uk/index.php/2021/01/hyeroptic-gifts-free-fibre-broadband-to-disadvantaged-uk-kids.html>

<https://www.thinkbroadband.com/news/8906-free-50-mbps-full-fibre-from-community-fibre-to-help-with-home-schooling>

Word of The Week

Well done to all of those children who *endeavoured* to use the word of the week in their writing or conversation this week!

The word of the week next week is **unanimous**. Please help your child to find out the meaning and origin of the word and to use it as much as possible at home! Teachers will be looking out for it in children's writing and it will be discussed in Zoom meetings or in class.

We know that this is an extremely challenging time for everyone, thank you for everything you are doing to support your children's learning, and thank you again for your ongoing support and positive messages. Please pass on to your children how proud we are of them for the way they are coping with a really difficult situation and all of the changes it has brought, and that we can't wait to have them all back in school.

Have a lovely weekend,

Elizabeth