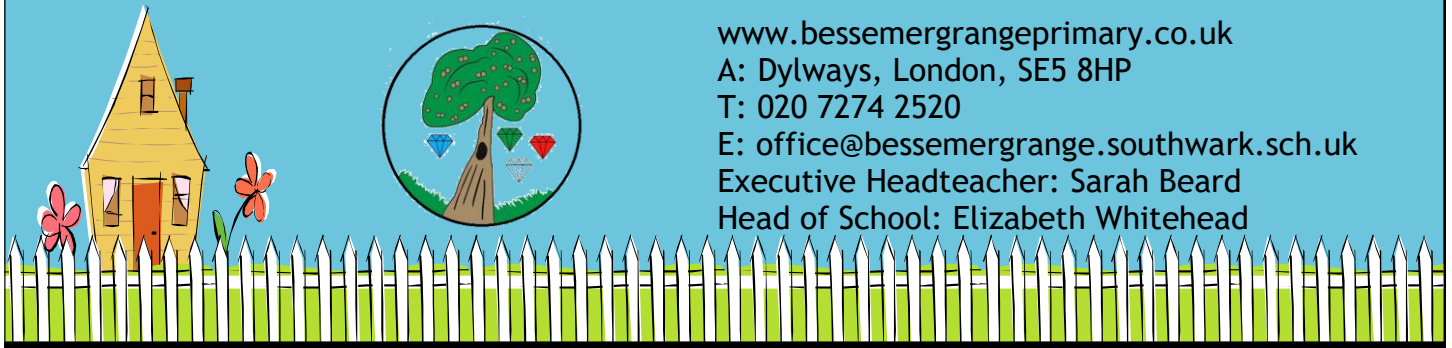


BESSEMER PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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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

Please note that the tutorial day planned for Friday 12th February has been postponed until school reopens.

News

Remote Learning

I am aware that our messaging around uploading work to Google Classroom has changed slightly, certainly since the last school closure and I am sorry if that has caused confusion. Initially our focus was on children completing the work and we were wary of adding additional pressure to families already struggling with remote learning alongside their own commitments, so placed less emphasis on uploading the work. However, while we are still very aware of the pressure on families at this time and the very real need to avoid further stress, we have to consider the fact that for at least four more weeks this is school, and we need children to engage as fully as possible. If children are able to upload their work daily they will receive feedback from their teachers which they will be able to respond to in the following day's work. It will also enable teachers to identify children who are struggling or teaching that needs to be revisited. In order to make this a little easier we will be supporting children to learn to upload their own work and have also added some instructions for uploading work to this newsletter and to Google Classroom.

If children do not complete work on the day it is set, or are unable to upload it on that day it is still beneficial for them to upload it when they can, however it is helpful if they then inform their teacher on the stream that they have uploaded 'late' work as otherwise these pieces of work can be missed.

We have ensured that our remote learning offer meets the government requirements of three hours of teaching and learning for KS1 and four hours for KS2, however all children are different and some will take longer than others to complete the work. We also know that it can be much harder to motivate children to engage with learning when they are at home having to learn from a screen. On top of this many of you also have your own workload to manage as well as supporting home learning. Many members of staff, me included, have experienced this for ourselves and know just how challenging it is. While sometimes there will be days when you manage every lesson, all work is uploaded and everyone is happy, there may also be days when there are tantrums and tears and everyone feels overwhelmed. We all

know that children cannot learn when they are stressed and upset and while we ask that you try to access as many lessons as possible, we do understand that there will be times that you just need to stop, take a break and try again later, or the next day.

Just as you are doing your best at home, we are also all doing our best at school and on Google Classroom, but again everything doesn't always go to plan. Please understand that remote learning is as new to us as it is to you and please be patient with us when things go wrong. If you do have any issues you need to raise please contact me rather than the teachers and I will do my best to help.

Live Lessons

For safeguarding reasons we have ensured that children are not able to join live lessons before the teacher arrives, or stay after they leave so that they are never in a live lesson unsupervised. Unfortunately there are occasions on which a poor internet connection or similar problems mean that the teacher leaves the lesson involuntarily. If this occurs during your child's live lesson please could you ask them to turn off their microphone and camera until the teacher returns.

We know that a few people have been struggling to get in to their live lessons. Teachers are now posting meeting links on the stream to see if this makes it easier to access the lessons.

Reading Book Swap

We will continue to facilitate reading book changes for children in Reception and Key Stage One at the red gate 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.

Reception: 11am Mondays

Year 1: 9.30am Thursdays

Year 2: 9.30am Fridays

After School Club

Thank you to everyone who has made alternative childcare arrangements while After School Club was short staffed. Staffing is now almost back to normal, so please do resume booking your sessions as usual from next week.

Certificates

We send out the star, mathematician, writer and scientist of the week certificates for home learners by email every Friday and then post videos of the rewards 'assemblies' on Google Classroom, please look out for them. Certificates for children in school are given out in person on Thursdays.

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

The word of the week next week is **bewildered**. 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.

Thank you for your ongoing support and for the kind messages we have received, they are very much appreciated.

Have a lovely weekend,

Elizabeth