

# BESSEMER PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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## Dates for your Diary

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February, half term holiday

## News

### Online Learning

As you know, the school closure has now been extended until at least half term, so accessing online learning is extremely important for the children at home. This week we have been contacting the parents and carers of children who have not accessed Google Classroom to see if any support is needed. We will continue to monitor the daily registers to ensure that children are accessing their lessons, please do let us know if you need any additional support with this. Please could you also remind your children to register on Google Classroom every day. If you can, please upload your child's work to Google Classroom for feedback from the teacher, but if you are not doing so, please inform the teacher on the stream that your child is still completing the work.

In addition to the video lessons we have been producing since the first lockdown we are now also holding weekly Zoom meetings for the children with their teacher. These meetings are held in small groups to allow the children and their teachers the opportunity to talk to each other. From next week I will also be doing some Zoom assemblies for each year group, look out for the Zoom invitation so you don't miss the meetings or the assemblies.

Some groups of children are also accessing live teaching sessions every day for a variety of reasons. Our next aim is to roll out this live teaching for all children. While we will not be replacing our maths and English lessons with live teaching, our plan is to provide some live lessons in the afternoons for the wider curriculum. These will allow the children to interact with their teacher, ask and answer questions and hopefully feel more connected to school. Look out for more information about this over the next week.

### **Keyworker Places in School**

There has been a much higher demand for keyworker places in school this lockdown and the majority of the bubbles are full. Ideally we would of course like to have all children in school, but in order for this lockdown to be effective and in order for our staff to feel safe in school, we need to keep the numbers as low as possible and cannot keep increasing the class sizes.

While the guidance states that only one parent needs to be a keyworker in order for a child to access a school place, this does not mean that every keyworker must send their child to school. Even if your child is already attending as a child of a keyworker, please think carefully about whether you need the place. These places are really for the children of keyworkers / critical workers whose job is essential at this time and who is either a single parent or has a partner who is also working, although possibly not as a keyworker. If one parent is furloughed or not working or parents work part time and can share childcare, then the child should stay at home and access online learning. We have been told that we will not be able to accept all keyworker requests, and unfortunately have already reached the point of having to place children on a waiting list. If we receive further requests for places for either vulnerable children or the children of keyworkers we will have to reevaluate the places that we have allocated. If you are a keyworker with a child in school you may need a letter from your employer confirming your keyworker status.

Following the government's guidance we have all windows and doors open in school at the moment. While the heating is turned up, it is still quite cold! Please ensure your child is warmly dressed with additional layers. Children can wear their coats in class if needed, but that can make writing difficult, so a vest, extra jumper or thermals is preferable.

### **Additional Home Learning**

P.E. with Joe is back! From Monday Joe Wicks will be doing live P.E. sessions on You Tube at 9am on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. This is a great way to start the day and get ready for online learning.

CBBC are now offering three hours of educational programmes every morning. While this is not a substitute for Google Classroom it is a great resource for when you need to get your own work done and ideal for recording some bits for use in the afternoons once school work has been completed.

### **Free School Meals**

If your child is entitled to free school meals and you need to collect a food parcel from school please contact the school office by phone or email.

## Word of The Week

The word of the week is **disguised**. 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.

While we are all really sad to be in this position and not to have all the children in school at the moment, we are also very proud of our entire Bessemer community right now. From all the amazing school staff working either in school or from home to our fantastic families offering so much support and kindness, we are lucky in many ways. Please all stay safe and keep in touch with any support needs or questions and we hope to all be back together as soon as possible.

*Elizabeth*

