



20 April 2020

Dear Parents,

We hope you had as good an Easter break as you were able and welcome back to our first remote Summer term! We've all had to adapt to new ways of working, so it's understandable if you and your child feel anxious and frustrated at the moment as we figure this all out together. We told you before the Easter break that we are reviewing our support for your children's home learning. This has been given more urgency following yesterday's announcement from government that there are currently "no plans" to open schools during the summer.

Whilst we hope you found the Home Learning Packs on the school website useful as an interim measure, from next week we will be introducing 'Google Classroom,' an on-line learning platform accessible on any device: Year 6 from Monday 27th April. Years 1 – 5 from Monday 4th May.

Each week your child's teacher will set various "assignments" on Google Classroom for your child to complete as best they can, given the vast range of circumstances we are all working in. Some of the tasks may be completed "online" and some may be uploaded to the Google Classroom from a paper copy - on which teachers will make at least one comment a week, in addition to "streaming" further communications through the Google classroom. Once the Classrooms go live, if you have any problems with access or use, then please email homelearning@bowesprimaryelt.org and we will respond as soon as we can. (please do not use Google Classrooms to communicate with us)

Support for completing the assignments will also include signposting to two new initiatives launched today; BBC Bitesize Daily lessons and the Oak National Academy Online classroom, both of which include virtual teaching.

Every child will be given a school email account, which they can use to access the application. Your child's email address and password will be sent to your email address. (We have disabled the email option from your child's Google account, so no emails can be sent or received.) Step-by-step parent instructions on how to access and use Google Classroom accompany this letter.

We will be making alternative arrangements for those of you who indicated on our questionnaire that you have limited or no access to the internet or suitable electronic devices. We will contact you separately regarding your child's home learning. If you haven't yet responded to the questionnaire, please email homelearning@bowesprimaryelt.org

If it is helpful, you may wish to establish a routine at home to give the children structure in which to work. A suggested timetable is available to view and download from the Home Learning Packs page on the Bowes website.

This is going to be a very new way of working for all of us and is likely to have some teething problems, so please bear with us during its setup and use. We look forward to launching this new way of working and will keep it under review as we seek to explore manageable, safe and secure ways of developing closer communication between us.

While we can't yet say when we'll be able to open fully, rest assured we'll continue to do our best to keep pupils' learning and the school 'connected.' We will continue with our fortnightly newsletters and should you need to get in touch with the school for any reason, please email us at support@bowesprimaryelt.org

Yours sincerely,

Paul Barraclough
Executive Headteacher

Gulev Karayel
Head of School