



5th May 2020

Dear Parents,

Thank you to all the families who have logged into Google Classroom and navigated their way around. We have loved seeing the children commenting on their work and communicating with their teachers. This is a very new way of working for all of us and we thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through some of the teething problems. We are very grateful to the staff who are working as quickly as they can to resolve any issues as they arise. Please remember to visit our Google Classroom page on the Bowes website for useful guides and videos.

As we develop our online classrooms, we are looking into the most effective ways of completing and submitting work. Many of us are juggling working at home, home schooling and sharing devices, so please rest assured that the class assignments will remain in your child's classroom to complete over the week, including the weekend. All we would ask is that your child completes what they can, when they can.

To ensure the children are taking part in a range of activities and to reduce screen time, not all tasks will involve online completion. It is absolutely fine for tasks to be completed in your child's home learning book/any exercise book should you prefer or if you are having difficulty accessing any of the online methods we are using. If you would like to share any work completed on paper, please take a photo and upload to your child's classroom. We understand that families are using a range of devices, software and operating systems, so not all online methods will be compatible.

Initially, the work assigned will revisit and consolidate the learning the children have undertaken this academic year. There will be some new learning throughout the week, but we would like the children to be completing as much of the work as possible independently, as we know many of you will be juggling working at home and supporting more than one child with their learning. Where appropriate, some work may be differentiated and challenges provided. If you feel that your child needs further challenge or more tasks to complete 'The Oak National Academy', 'BBC Bitesize Daily' and 'White Rose Maths' have some fantastic resources and lessons.

We know the children are excited and it has been great seeing them asking questions and adding comments, but please could we remind everybody that the comments should be based on the home learning set. Children should not be adding memes, videos, chat or any inappropriate comments. All comments are viewed by the class teacher and the senior leadership team.

We are continuing to look into ways we can further support our families who have informed us that they have limited or no access to the internet/suitable devices and we will be in contact with you very shortly.

We are regularly meeting (virtually!) with the teachers to review and evaluate the use of Google Classroom. The teachers have been sharing tips with each other and supporting its development. We want the classrooms to be easily accessible to all. We can't say yet when we will be able to open the school fully, but rest assured that we will continue to do our utmost to keep your child learning and our school community connected.

Stay safe, keep healthy, look after yourselves and your families.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Barraclough
Executive Headteacher

Gulev Karayel
Head of School