

# Bowes Primary School



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Dear Parents,

I wanted to write to thank you for the feedback you provided through our Remote Learning parent questionnaire. I value the time you took to complete it, as well as the useful insight your comments brought. After the challenges of the last academic year and now the first half of the Spring term, it has been heartening to read your overwhelmingly positive feedback. I have passed on every piece of praise you have given to the Bowes staff who were delighted that all of their hard work is making a difference. This has certainly boosted staff morale during these challenging times.

We as a school leadership team, have had the opportunity to review the results. We had over 180 responses in total and there was a good spread across the year groups. The feedback provided also offered some helpful suggestions regarding changes that we could consider in order to make the remote learning experience even better. We have considered how we can implement some of these changes which I have detailed in this letter.

I have also summarised the results of the survey which can be found on the last page of this letter.

## **Chromebooks**

We are very pleased to have received such lovely feedback regarding the Chromebooks and the positive impact they have made to the children's remote learning experience. We feel proud to share with you some of the comments we received:

- *This has been a game changer for remote learning during the current lockdown in a very positive way.*
- *It is honestly amazing that the children have Chromebooks, it means all children have equal opportunities to complete home schooling.*
- *The Chromebook is great. We would have struggled without it.*
- *We are really pleased with the Chromebook. It has helped us so much and really has made home learning much better. Thank you!*
- *Made everything so much easier as no issues around sharing devices and gives a lovely sense of independence with the learning.*

Thank you for the many lovely comments on our Remote Learning provision. We feel very proud to share with you a handful of some of the comments from the feedback survey:

- *We appreciate all that you are doing!*
- *Reopen!! :) We need you! We are really happy with the provision, thank you.*
- *I just want to say thank you and keep going! We hugely appreciate all that you're doing and how much effort you are all putting in to making sure our children are getting the best education possible under the circumstances.*
- *We are so appreciative of the fantastic work you are all doing to make the Home Learning experience such high quality and with such good input, responses and care given.*
- *You have done an incredible job and we are extremely grateful. The way Bowes has organised remote learning and communicated to parents throughout the period has been brilliant.*

Whilst there are many families within our community who feel that the remote learning experience provided by Bowes is working for them, we understand that parts of it are not working for everyone. We have had some constructive feedback from parents and would like to reassure you that we have taken on board your suggestions and will continue to review our provision.

During this difficult time many schools are adopting various approaches in their remote learning experience and I would like to share with you some of the points we have considered in our offer at Bowes.

Ofsted has recently published guidance which states that: *'Live lessons are not always the best. It can be hard to build interaction and flexibility. This means that giving feedback can actually be less effective than when we use recorded lessons, followed by tasks and feedback'*.

We use pre-recorded lessons for English/phonics and maths so that the children can pause and go back to any concepts they may find tricky or ask the teacher for additional support/clarification on misconceptions during the live meets every day. We also believe this model works best for most families, as not all children are able to engage in 'live' lessons at the same time for many logistical reasons. As an inclusive school, we have considered the fact that differentiated pre-recorded sessions are accessible to all pupils, including those with additional needs. We believe the teachers are delivering a balanced offer of blended learning which can be accessed by all children at any time during the day. The results from our survey confirmed this as 99% of the families who completed the survey believe that the work provided by Bowes is accessible to their child. In addition to this, the teachers have received encouraging feedback from the children via the Google Classroom.

### **Next Steps After Half-Term**

We have taken on board the suggestion that the pre-recorded sessions need to be short to ensure the children remain engaged throughout, particularly for our younger pupils. Therefore, the teachers will record lessons that run for a maximum of 15 minutes, with the vast majority being approximately 10 minutes long.

In addition to the daily live Google Meet sessions, the teachers will run small group sessions which children will participate in once a week. This will offer an opportunity for children to meet with their teacher and discuss their work/well-being on a more personal level without the rest of the class being present. We aim to have a maximum of six other children in each group session and they will run over the course of the week straight after the daily class meets. These will commence after the half-term and the teachers will post the groupings within their Google Classroom on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Please note that these sessions are only for the children who are working remotely. The children who attend the provision already have the opportunity to talk personally to a teacher in school.

On the first week back after half-term, we will start our Achievement Assemblies again. Due to the volume of children in each year group, these will be pre-recorded so that all children can access them. They will follow the same model that we carry out in school, whereby each teacher chooses two children from each class and mentions their successes. The children's achievements are linked to our values. Once the school opens, we will continue with our Achievement Assemblies virtually in school. Please reassure your child that if their name is not mentioned during the remote learning period, their accomplishments will be mentioned during the course of the year when they return to school.

We are delighted to share the news that we are organising a whole-school art event for our wider school community. This event is called *'Lockdown Through a Lens'* and will be launched today by Donna via the Google Classrooms, please look out for her video. The purpose of this project is to bring together our community by offering an opportunity to share our personal experiences of this time through a creative outlet. We welcome all of our children, parents and staff to contribute towards this project. All contributions should be sent to [creativehub@bowesprimaryelt.org](mailto:creativehub@bowesprimaryelt.org) by **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021**. All entries will be collated into a Bowes Virtual Spring Exhibition. We very much look forward to receiving your lovely work.

Thank you again for your responses and feedback. We fully understand and appreciate the difficulties surrounding learning from home. We know it can be tough juggling everything, so thank you for your perseverance and resilience during this national lockdown. I wish you all a lovely half-term break and we look forward to receiving a school update from the government next week.

Kind Regards,

Effie Demetriou  
**Headteacher**

## Survey Outcome

Question	Percentages				
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Bowes is providing a high-quality remote learning experience for my child.	41%	43%	12%	2%	2%
	<b>84%</b>		<b>12%</b>	<b>4%</b>	
Rating for each activity	Highly Engaging	Engaging	Neutral	Not Engaging	Not Applicable
Daily live Google Meets	55%	38%	4%	2%	1%
Voice over PowerPoints	25%	50%	16%	5%	4%
Pre-recorded Lessons	34%	51%	10%	4%	1%
Activities	28%	51%	16%	4%	1%
The quantity of work we receive from Bowes to support my child.	<b>Just Right</b>		<b>Not Enough</b>		<b>Too Much</b>
	81%		10%		9%
The Chromebook has contributed positively to the remote learning.	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>	
	90%	3%	0%	7%	
The work provided by Bowes is accessible for my child.	<b>Agree</b>			<b>Disagree</b>	
	99%			1 %	
Bowes is supporting my child's well-being.	<b>Agree</b>			<b>Disagree</b>	
	96%			4%	