

Bredhurst Church Of England Primary School



Parents As Partners

Website: www.bredhurst.kent.sch.uk
Newsletter 8.1.21



Church of England Vision for Education

Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good.

John 10:10 "I came that you might have life, life in all its fullness".

Bredhurst Church of England Primary Vision:

To learn and grow through the guidance and love of God.

Self Control

Perseverance

Inclusion

Respect

Inspiration

Trust



Dear Parents and Carers,

What can I say! Here we are again! I hope that you are all managing well given the present situation. It really is not an easy time for anyone. Please do your best to stay safe and well during this very challenging time.

We started our online live learning sessions this week. Well done to all the children (and parents), we know this is not the most ideal way to have to teach, however it is giving us the opportunity to see the children and also for them to see each other. We are trying hard with these live sessions and as our confidence and experience with using the technology improves so should our delivery of these sessions. Please bear with us it is only week 1; we are all trying our best! If you are having any difficulties with these sessions please do email the class teacher or myself.

If your child does not have access to technology at home please email me as we have a small number of laptops supplied from the DfE for our children who are struggling with remote access and a lack of equipment to access the home learning on.

From next week the live sessions will be changing a little, for the children in years 1 and 2 some sessions will be phonics based and some will be more English based with the children focusing on the writing element more - the teacher will be delivering an input and the children will have a task to complete from this input. They will have to ensure they have all completed each days work in order to get the best from the live session as the following day will be linked to the prior learning. They may also have topic based and Understanding Faith as part of these live sessions.

For the children in years 3,4,5 and 6, the children will continue to have mainly English based live teaching sessions, although some of these will also be topic based as we teach in a cross curricular way, linking our English and topic learning. The fifth session may be an Understanding Faith lesson. In addition to this the children should all be accessing a daily maths lesson-the work from this tends to be in the form of a PowerPoint with worksheets attached. If your child is experiencing difficulties with any aspect of the home learning please contact the class teacher who will support you with this. For the children in Hurstwood, Kemsley and Oakwood classes the teachers will be holding live sessions where the children can log on and talk to their class teacher regarding their learning. These sessions will be a drop in session for your child to join should they wish to or if they have had a particular problem with their learning which they need to talk through with their teacher. Each teacher will be putting the time of their live trouble shooting sessions on their home learning page.

For the children in Fir Tree and Forge class we will continue with the daily phone call catch up time should any parents wish to talk to the class teacher—should you wish to do so please send an email to the teacher to organise this. For both Fir Tree and Forge classes the children are too young to talk through any issues with their learning themselves so we would need to speak to their parents to be able to support them.

We do know how onerous the home learning is for some parents and how difficult it is to juggle home learning as well as your own jobs if you are working from home. Please do not worry if you are having difficulties—email us so we can try to find a solution which may help to resolve any issues. We do not want any child to be struggling with the learning whilst at home.

Unfortunately, we cannot send home any home reading books at the current time and whilst we understand this is incredibly frustrating for you it would be unfair of us to do so as we would be advantaging the children in school over those at home, as those at home would not be able to access this support. If your child is in Fir Tree or Forge class then they can access the Collins Readers from home.

If you would like additional resources for your child whilst they are working from home our school website has links to websites for your child to access during this period. Oak Academy and the BBC are very useful websites for you to access learning for your child. Twinkl have updated their website with a very useful home learning page for parents. You will find lots of fantastic resources here: <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/covid19-school-closures>

Please do not feel that you need to access all these other activities and resources to support your child. If they are accessing the daily live learning session and the maths lesson as well as reading whilst at and practicing their times tables—the times tables Rockstars is very useful for this, then that is fine. You do need to make sure you have a balance of academic work and play. Children do need to free time to unwind and be children—even if it is playing Roblox, Fortnite or Among Us—if they are also talking to their friends it is still social interaction which they need. The children in school are accessing PE type sessions, going to the woods, art activities etc. so they are also not sitting in a classroom being taught by the teacher after the morning sessions.

We have put some short Acts of Worship on the website for you to access from home—these are from the Diocese of Rochester and are written for all schools in the Rochester Diocese. We are using these in school too each day. You will find these on the front page of the home learning page of the website.

If you are experiencing issues with printing worksheets for your child please notify your child's class teacher via email and they will arrange for these to be printed for you and ready for collection from the main school office.

Just remember you are all doing your best in these strange times, everyone has bad days when they feel overwhelmed—you would not be normal if you did not! We can only do our best—children are resilient, the learning they miss will be made up. In the two terms that the children were back in school we were busy ensuring we made up gaps which had occurred for some children. The biggest gaps were in the youngest children—we will have time to fill any gaps they have—please try not to worry. Remember this is a pandemic and children nationwide, if not worldwide, are experiencing the same issues. Please try not to let it worry you, try enjoy this extra time at home with your child.

It is very important to look after your own and your child's mental health during this time. We have added some websites to our home learning page on our school website to support your own and your child's mental health.

Kooth can be accessed via website or via the app and students/parents can self refer for help, it doesn't need to go through a doctor or school referral process: it is also picked up by trained counsellors to support the student.

www.kooth.com

Young Minds offers a similar service to Kooth but the support is 'supported' by trained professionals rather than counsellors actually supporting the students.

youngminds.org.uk

MIND are offering free virtual wellbeing sessions (out of school hours) for young people to combat stress, deal with emotions and reduce anxiety in order to enhance resilience. Further information and enrolment onto the course can be found at:

<https://www.maidstonemind.org/virtual-bounce-back-courses/>

MIND also provide information on how to access support and services for a range of issues such as abuse, bereavement, mental health, housing and benefits:

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/guides-to-support-and-services/>

Making Miracles are a local charity supporting young people and families through loss and bereavement, particularly as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. They have offered 6 FREE bereavement counselling sessions to any young person who may benefit from it. This is not explicit to COVID being the cause of a loss, but is open to anyone who has lost during COVID from other causes.

www.makingmiracles.org.uk

