

Week 19 5th February

Dear Families,

Happy February. I continue to be really grateful for the useful feedback that we are receiving from you through the "Staying in Touch" forms. Some snippets are below –

"Really impressed with everything. It is well organised, easy to follow, varied. x enjoys the live sessions. Xx is happy to work independently but she really likes circle time."

"It has been going really well. I would love to thank you Brunswick school for starting daily live learning sessions on zoom! It is such a brilliant idea!"

"It's good that all resources and work is in ONE place on the timetable and one virtual workbook."

"Hello. We just wanted to let you know that we really like that the teaching lessons are now split into shorter videos directly attached to the lessons. This is very helpful and works much better for us. Xxx can watch, pause, write and enjoy seeing their teachers. We can also fit those videos easier around our day and don't have to watch it all in one go which works well. :) Thank you."

From what you are saying we are getting the balance of learning right for the majority of our families and, where we can, we are making tweaks to make access to the content more straightforward to enable the children to learn more independently.

Live learning is a regular feature of discussion and opinion so please, please do make use of the Year Group daily live sessions, these may not be run by your class teacher as the rota for the week is shared amongst the teaching and teaching assistants as a year group staff. Currently all staff are busily timetabled for a normal working week. Some of their days are spent teaching face to face in school, some of the week they will be providing remote teaching support. In addition they are keeping a close eye on the learning that is uploaded by the children. Teaching assistants are also supporting in school and remotely with additional support and reading coaching with Bug Club. Many of us are also providing home education at the same time for our own children. This is a difficult time of juggling for most of us, we are working hard and I am proud of the rapid progress.

This time around class teachers are not making weekly or fortnightly telephone calls home instead they are focussing on learning and teaching. Instead we have the services of the learning mentors to support with any pastoral and checking in sessions.

As always if you have difficulties with use of computers do let class teachers know and paper packs can be readily provided.

Finally we know that you will have good days and less good days. This happens in school too. My advice is to stop for a break if the learning is becoming a struggle. Have a walk, have a snack ready, have a glass of water – re-regulate to get back into the "green." Then perhaps break the learning into smaller parts and focus on what is going well.

The content that we offer may be too much to achieve each day and if that is the case stick to the core subjects of Maths and English. Sitting down, having a cuddle and sharing a great picture book story is also learning too as is playing a turn taking game involving sharing, rolling a dice and playing by the rules. If you are really brave you might attempt home baking! The following top tips may help.



Warm wishes



Alison Colbran

Interim Head teacher

Top tips for Remote Learning for parents

We do understand how hard everyone is working to juggle lots of different things - sometimes multiple children, little ones, their own work. We have staff doing the same. Whatever you can do is fantastic! Please see these ideas as just a possible helpful list!

- ✚ Don't try to do everything that is posted – we are saying 6-8 pieces or more a week is fine – if your child wants to do more, then great but it is quality not quantity
- ✚ If nothing else, get the children to watch the videos of the lessons every day – if you need to prioritise the work – Maths and English first
- ✚ At school we prioritise reading, so reading at home is key every day. So a bedtime story, snuggled on sofa with a book or first thing in the morning before you even start the day is also “work”
- ✚ If you are having problems with the technology, please contact your class teacher as we should be able to help
- ✚ Try and get into a pattern for each day – with regular breaks, time for the children to play and exercise. This will be whatever works for your family – it does not need to be exactly between 9 – 3.00. Often children like this to be written/drawn in a timetable
- ✚ If you can, create a workspace/desk for your child. It makes them feel special and independent. Most children love “playing schools” – a few pens, pencils, highlighters, post-it notes etc. may help
- ✚ If you can use different rooms/space for different activities. Change and variety is good for everyone
- ✚ If your child is particularly “physical” and needs to move about –then that is fine. Short periods of concentration and then exercise! Feel free to change the activities to more practical/physical ones and post a photo! We can provide a list of more practical activities if that would help – please ask Mr Smith
- ✚ It should be the children working – not you. So get them to do some work independently. We will be working like this for a few weeks more – so training them to be independent now will really help in the weeks to come
- ✚ Some families have joined together virtually, with Zoom, facetime and playstations so children can work together and see their friends working. This I'm sure would help our older children
- ✚ There are many very good resources on the BBC – please feel free to use these – it is not “cheating”
- ✚ Use family not in your house as a resource – grandparents may love to Whatapp/zoom and listen to reading
- ✚ If a day is just too difficult – take a break! Do something different and come back to the work the next day
- ✚ Do give marbles in a jar or stickers to reward excellent learning and attitudes to working – when the jar is full play a silly game, sing a silly song, have a dance
- ✚ Education can also be cooking, gardening, walking, making something, playing – a break from a screen is vital – so please get this into the day too
- ✚ Avoid too much Facebook/Instagram. People posting about how they are 'smashing the home schooling' are not always helpful!! Instead, join groups which give ideas for indoor activities and fun things to do
- ✚ Don't worry – we are here to help in any way we can – please just ask
- ✚ At the end of the day you are their families and we are their teachers. So continue to be this and ask us for help to be their teacher
- ✚ Thank you for everything you are doing. As a family member you may be having similar thoughts to the adult in the illustration, but remember your child will be thinking how much they love you!



Gardening news

We are hoping to add some colour to our grounds, so we would be grateful to receive any donations of spare seeds or bulbs (both flower and vegetable) and also any unwanted plants or shrubs. It'll be so nice to have colourful pots and areas ready for when we are all together again.

There is a collection box for donations in the lobby alongside the home learning packs.

The felt from our gardening shed has almost disappeared! If anyone has any spare felt then please email billeEltringham@brunswick.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Many thanks

Keeping in touch with The Brunswick Leadership Team

During this lockdown it would be really helpful for us to know how you are doing and how we are doing to support you during this time when the school is closed.

If you would like to share your feedback with us that would be really helpful. If you have a moment then please do follow this link to a Parents and Carers - Keeping in touch with The Brunswick Leadership Team form. <https://forms.gle/hrqu1XHN7Zx9pore8>

Whilst we may not see you each day we are still here to offer support where it is needed or to make tweaks and improvements where we can. Connect with us and share how you think and feel about how the term is going so far.

You might also like to let us know what is working well for you so that we can share your top tips, or you might like to give a compliment or share some praise for a member of staff who would value this very much.

Children's Mental Health Week



www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk

This week is Children's Mental Health Week and this year's theme is 'Express Yourself'. Place2Be has created activities and resources to help children (and adults) to explore the different ways that they can share their thoughts, feelings and ideas. There are lots of resources on the Children's Mental Health Week website that you can use with your child at home; including activity ideas, tips for parents and carers, and an online assembly which is now available.

Visit <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/parents-and-carers/> to find out more.

The PSHE Team

Class Awards – Congratulations to our worthy winners this week

	Reception Rabbit – Parsa Fish – Nora Hamster – Poppy Duck – Ilan	
Year 1 Seahorse - Elodie Lobster – Emily Starfish - Orlaith Octopus – William	Year 2 Grasshopper – Francesca Dragonfly – Alan Ladybird - Ellie Bumblebee – Emily	Year 3 Salamander - Estelle Gecko – Salsabil Chameleon - Lyra Iguana – Jake
Year 4 Puma – Bobbie Tiger - Tabby Lion - Phaedra Jaguar – Anja	Year 5 Griffin – Louisa Pegasus – Lizzie Phoenix – Amelia Dragon – Rex	Year 6 Falcon - Analiese Eagle – Scarlett Osprey – William Kite - Zainab Kestrel – Kian Owl - Saif

P.E. Update from Mr Smith our Brunswick Sports Coach

This week in Year 4 some lucky children had the opportunity to try out the Premier League Primary Stars web app. This proved a big hit with any football mad learners who loved the Premier league themed maths & literacy questions. Erigert said "I loved the maths games, especially because they are football themed". Mazen liked the idea that you can pick your favourite Premier league team to play as, and Mariam loved that you could choose your own character to play as. If you want to give this a go at home you can visit <https://plprimarystars.com/for-families/play-game>

Year 4 have been practicing some of the Specsavers winter games virtual events and getting ready to post their final scores on Friday. We are also expecting big things from our active children in Year 3 who have been working hard to improve their scores! Look out for new challenges to be released and updated on Dojo on Monday.

Safe parking before and after school

Unfortunately, we have noticed several parents and carers double parking outside school at the beginning and the end of the day. Please remember to park safely and walk the short distance to school if necessary.

Dates

February 15th-19 th	Half Term Holiday	School closed to children
Monday 22nd February	INSET Day	School closed to children
Tuesday 23rd February	Spring Term 2 starts	School
Thursday 4th March	World Book Day	School
Thursday 1st April	Last day of Spring Term	School
Friday 2nd April - Friday 16th April	Easter Holidays	School closed to children
Week beginning 19th April	Summer Term starts	School
Monday 3rd May	TLC week	School
Friday 28th May	Last day of Summer Term 1	School
Monday 31st May	Bank Holiday	School closed to children
Tuesday 1st - Friday 4th June	Half term Holiday	School closed to children
Monday 7th June	INSET Day	School closed to children
Tuesday 8th June	Summer Term 2 starts	School
Friday 23rd July	Last day of Term - Summer Holidays	School

Inset Days 2021-22

Thursday 2nd & Friday 3rd September 2021

Monday 1st November 2021

Tuesday 4th January 2022

Monday 6th June 2022