



BURLINGTON JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Friday 15th January 2021

Google Classrooms - Remote learning & Live Contact Events

Dear Parents/Carers,

We wanted to thank you for your continued support and patience during our first two weeks of remote learning. As a school, we are continuing to learn about the technology available to us and trial new ways of working with our pupils remotely. So far, this has included making use of Google Classroom as a remote learning platform; providing pre-recorded teaching videos from platforms such as White Rose Maths and Oak National Academy; recording and uploading daily instructional and 'hello' videos to classes; and, this week, making use of a new tool to provide verbal feedback on uploaded work. We are also making regular telephone calls to pupils.

Teachers are continuing to increase the **pre-recorded teaching videos** available to pupils. These videos allow children **to pause and review learning** as many times as they need to. An additional benefit of this is that these videos can be accessed at any time of the school day to suit different family needs.

We recognise that our next step is to explore live interactions with pupils. We know that one of the greatest losses to pupils during remote learning is social interaction with both their peers and their teachers. Therefore, we would like to trial the use of **'live contact sessions'** to reinforce the link between home and school, and further develop our remote learning offer. We acknowledge that all staff are on a learning journey with this new technology so please bear with us whilst we fine tune our skills.

These events will take place through **Google Classroom** and **Google Meet** and children must log in using their school account; they will not be admitted into the meeting if they are using a personal account. Teachers will share the Google Meet link needed on your child's **Google Classroom stream five minutes before the session begins**. This is to make sure that a member of school staff is present on the Google Meet before any children join the session. When a session ends, all children must leave the meeting and then a member of staff will close the session. Two staff members must be present on a meeting in order for it to take place.

Currently, live contact has been planned so that only one year group is online at any one time to ensure that families with more than one child at our school are not disadvantaged. These sessions are for Burlington Junior School teaching staff and pupils only. We do understand that there may be other household members nearby but we ask that they do not participate in the live session.

Introducing live events:

Wellbeing Session (30 minutes maximum) from 18.01.21 – This is a chance for your child to catch up with their adults and classmates to support their mental health and wellbeing. This may involve taking part in an interactive activity such as a 'scavenger treasure hunt', 'quick draw' or discussing a PSHE theme as a class. Teachers may also share stories or poems during this time. These sessions will take place **once a week** at the following times:

- Year 3: Wednesday 11.30am
- Year 4: Wednesday 11.00am
- Year 5: Thursday 11.30am
- Year 6: Thursday 11.00am

Optional Daily Class Check-In (15 minutes maximum) from 25.01.21 – These events are opportunities for **pupils** to discuss their learning in a group with a teacher. Teachers may also share whole class feedback from work that has been uploaded. We are aiming to have the child's class teacher leading this session as much as possible, but this may change due to teachers being in school or sickness. An automatic register is taken by joining this meeting. These sessions will take place daily at the following times, after the instruction video has been uploaded:

- Year 6: 9.15am
- Year 5: 9.30am
- Year 4: 9.45am
- Year 3: 10.00am

There may be additional live sessions scheduled by class teachers who are trialling the technology.

We hope that these live interactions will help to enhance students' remote learning experience and wellbeing by having regular contact and interaction with their teachers and peers. However, please be aware that school staff reserve the right to remove students from a live session if their behaviour does not meet expectations and parents/carers will be informed.

What if I do not want my child to participate in any of these live sessions?

There is no obligation for your child to join these live sessions and we appreciate that the timings might not work for all families. You do not need to let us know if your child is unable to attend a particular session. However, in allowing your child to join a live session, you are agreeing to them joining with their video and microphone.

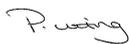
If you **DO NOT** want your child to participate in these sessions **at any point**, please contact the school via the email address parent@bjs.rbksch.org.

Why are you offering this now when you said it wasn't safe for children or staff before?

We have learnt a lot since the last lockdown and now have access to the technology to offer live sessions e.g. devices for staff with microphone and camera now enables us to use google meet. We have seen that some children's mental health and wellbeing has been affected due to lockdowns this year. Not being in school and seeing their friends and teachers is a key part of this. Live sessions may help children to connect with their peers and familiar adults in school. At the beginning of the last lockdown, live sessions were very new and there were concerns about keeping children safe online. To ensure that these sessions are successful and keep pupils and staff safe, we have devised a [protocol](#) for live sessions (attached) which all pupils, parents and staff agree to when they participate in them.

We will be reviewing all remote learning in the coming weeks and will seek feedback from children and parents once we have established our offer. Thank you for your support as we move into yet another new way of working on this journey.

Best wishes,



Mrs Pip Utting
Headteacher

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SCHOOL
MEMBER