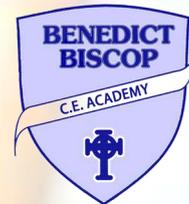


# Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy Newsletter



**APRIL 2020**

Dear Pupils, Parents, Carers and family members,

Happy Easter! I hope that you are all well and safe. My thoughts and prayers have been very much with all of you over the past few weeks and it has been lovely to see what everyone has been sending into the class emails and a delight to see what you have been tagging us into on the Facebook page. Thank you for your support and for engaging with us during this difficult time.

We thought it would be nice to share a selection of the activities that you have all been sending, so you can all get an idea of all the amazing activities that the children across the school having been getting up to. It is wonderful to see such a range of learning happening from home.

Over the last few weeks school has been open for the children of key workers and we would like to thank everyone for staying home as much as possible, helping to keep Benedict Bishop staff, key workers and their families safe. I would also like to say thank you to our staff who have continued to work and for enabling Benedict Biscop to stay open during the Easter holiday period and provide childcare support for our key worker families for as long as it is needed.

I know that as parents and carers you are also juggling so many different things at the moment, whether this be working from home, entertaining and supporting your children, possible IT issues, all whilst having huge concern for the health and well-being of members of your family and friends, which is why we understand that you may not be able to give education from home the full attention you would like to.....please just do what you can!

Whilst school sent home a range of activities for children to engage in prior to the Easter holiday period, we are currently establishing a home learning platform for pupils to engage in whilst school continues to be closed. Pupils will be sent a link to enable them to join our Showbie platform. From next week, children will be sent online activities for them to access and complete. This will include instructional videos and guidance from their class teachers, modelling new learning. Learning will follow a simple daily routine following our usual school curriculum. We understand that not everyone will be able to access this online platform, but hope that parents will appreciate that we are trying to support our pupils as best as we can, doing what we can. Not all activities will need to be completed online.

The Government has also produced a range of online resources for parents to access. Please follow the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-online-education-resources-for-home-education>

We will continue to provide updates for parents on our website, on our Facebook page and through emails and hope that we will all return to school soon, happy and healthy.

Take care.

Regards  
Mrs Armstrong

# Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy Newsletter



## Message from Mark Stouph, Chair of Board of Directors NLLT

The current situation has presented many challenges for our pupils, staff and the communities in which our schools are part. Despite the challenges, our staff have been able to provide childcare for the children of key workers thereby supporting staff in the NHS and other vital services, along with vulnerable pupils. Teachers have also worked very hard to provide work for children who are working at home and I have been pleased to hear how pupils have continued their studies despite the difficult circumstances. I am particularly grateful to parents, carers and other family members who are supporting our children's studies at home.

The Trust continues to closely monitor the Government's advice in respect of COVID-19 to ensure the safest standards for our teachers, support staff and pupils who are still attending school. We have also been working hard to provide free school meal vouchers to those pupils' families that are eligible.

The Trust Board recognises the key role our schools play at the heart of the communities in which we serve. This has been brought into sharp focus during the current pandemic and our schools are working hard to support not only our children and their families but also the wider community as well. We will keep each school website updated with information on school activities and support.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Trust Board, to wish you and your family our kindest thoughts and look forward to happier times in the future.

**Mark Stouph**  
**Chair – Northern Lights Learning Trust**



# Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy Newsletter



## ADVICE FOR PARENT AND CARERS

Government advice for Parents and Carers of Primary school age children can be found using the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-primary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

While staying at home due to coronavirus (COVID-19), parents and carers will be concerned about their children's education and the impact of missing school. No one expects parents to act as teachers, or to provide the activities and feedback that a school would. School will be planning work for your child to do. Where possible, we are encouraging parents and carers to do their best to help children and support their learning.

### **Structuring the day**

Do not worry about trying to maintain a full routine for your child like they had at school. But children will feel more comfortable and learn better with a predictable routine to the day, even if this is difficult.

When school provide work for the children we will set activities throughout the day and keep to a simple routine that we hope will support parents.

But generally, you should try to make sure that they:

- get up and go to bed at the same time each day
- have regular meal times
- have regular breaks
- make time to be active - children are used to regular play at lunch and break times

### **Using digital devices**

School will be setting work that can be done on a digital device such as a laptop, desktop, tablet or smartphone. To help reduce screen time we will also provide instructional videos for activities that the children can complete at home to support their learning, resources that can be printed and hand written tasks.

Staff have been encouraged to use items that are commonly found at home to support practical learning. We are still recommending that children complete at least one physical activity at home every day.

You are advised to set age-appropriate parental controls on any devices your child is using and supervise their use of websites and apps and talk to your child about online safety. It is recommended that children stop using digital devices at least an hour before bed.

# Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy Newsletter



## KEEPING SAFE ONLINE Guidance from [thinkuknow.co.uk](http://thinkuknow.co.uk)

### How young is too young to start talking to my child about online safety?

It's never too early to start taking action to keep your child safe online. As soon as your child starts talking about or exploring the online world, you should start conversations with them about their online activity and put support in place. Research has found that children form 'digital habits' during early development (such as using devices after bedtime). Therefore it is important for parents to support children to develop positive - and lasting - digital habits from an early age.

### What are the benefits of my under 5 using technology?

There are many benefits of children engaging with technology from an early age. The internet provides children with opportunities to learn, connect with family, develop creativity, as well as have fun. Apps, games and websites designed for under 5s help children to improve their literacy and numeracy skills, and supports them to develop their fine-motor skills (such as their ability to move fingers independently by pointing and pushing buttons, and improving hand-eye coordination).

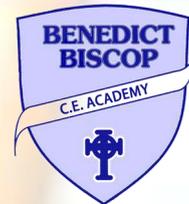
A number of families use video chat and messaging services as a way to connect with family and friends, which allows young children to maintain relationships with relatives. There are lots of child friendly sites you can explore with your child, such as Cbeebies, where children can watch videos, play games, learn and be entertained.

### What can I do to support my under 5?

There are lots of things you can do to support your under 5. This is not a complete list, but a range of strategies you can use to improve your child's online experience:

1. Explore together: Explore your child's favourite apps and websites with them. This can be a fantastic way to find out what your child enjoys doing online, as well as having fun and learning together.
2. Talk to your child about their online experiences: Start and continue regular conversations with your under 5 about what they enjoy doing online, introducing online safety messages. These conversations can be a great way to reinforce the message that if your child sees anything online which makes them feel worried, they can tell you or another adult they trust.
3. Supervise your under 5 while they're online: Keep the devices your child uses in communal areas of the house such as in the living room or kitchen where an adult can supervise. Children under 5 should not access the internet unsupervised in private spaces, such as alone in their bedroom or bathroom.
4. Parental controls: Make use of the parental controls available on your home broadband and any internet enabled device in your home. You can find out more about how to use parental controls by visiting your broadband provider's website, or by viewing advice/step-by-step guides available on the internet matters site. If you need any help setting up parental controls, you can also call up the NSPCC/O2 Helpline or visit an O2 store.

# Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy Newsletter



5. SafeSearch: The use of 'SafeSearch' is recommended for use with young children. Most web search engines will have a 'SafeSearch' function, which allows you to limit the material your child can see when they're online. Look out for the 'Settings' button on your web browser homepage, which is often shaped like a small cog. It is important to understand that no 'SafeSearch' function is 100% effective, and this cannot be used alone to protect your child from being exposed to age inappropriate material.

6. Set boundaries: As a family you can agree a set of rules, such as locations in the house where devices can be used, times of day your child can use devices, or which age appropriate apps or websites they can access. On devices you do not wish your under 5 to access, use passwords and keep these out of reach of your child.

7. Lead by example: Modelling the digital habits you expect from your child (for example, no tablets during meal-times) can be an effective way of supporting young children to develop their own positive digital behaviours from an early age.

## Being creative at home...



Cameron has been learning to knit, helping to make things for the paramedics!

Whilst Cooper has enjoyed making and decorating family handprints using sourdough.

# Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy Newsletter



Jacob has been busy building shelves for all the vegetables that he has planted!

Amelie has created a fantastic picture using pebbles and shells she collected on her last Beach School trip.



Year 5 completed their learning of the Tudors by creating a keynote presentation on the iPads. First, they reflected on some key events that happened during the Tudor era and ordered the most important chronologically. They then made presentations as exciting and vibrant as possible by using animations, pictures and effects. Finally, we used the Apple TV to present and show them to the whole class.



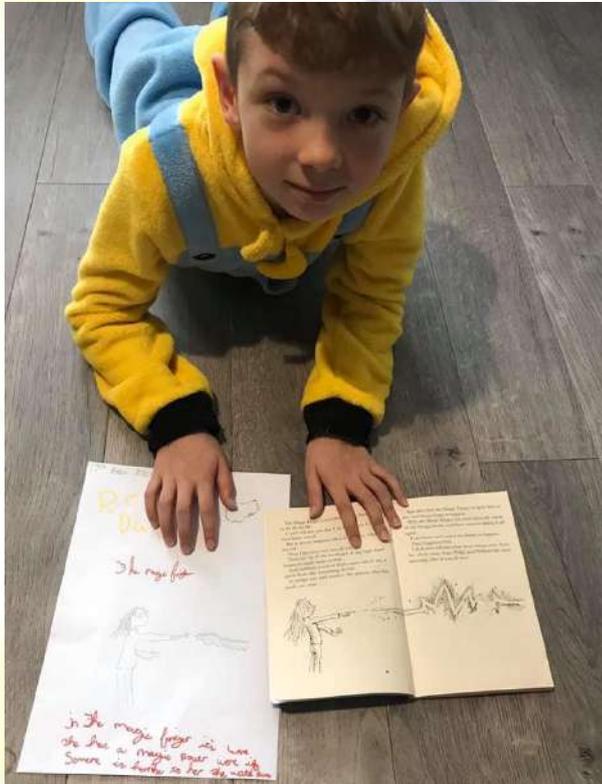
# Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy Newsletter



The Year Four children have been looking at states of matter in Science. We explored the different properties of solids, gases and liquids using balloons. We even had a go at seeing what type of chocolate melted the fastest!



# Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy Newsletter



Keep on reading...

Well done Lewis for scoring 100% in your Accelerated Reader quiz, whilst reading at home....we are glad that you are continuing to keep up the good work!

## **BBC Bitesize**

It's a strange time to be a school pupil right now but wherever you're doing your lessons, BBC Bitesize is here for you - more than ever.

From 20 April, you'll be able to access regular daily lessons in English and Maths, as well as other core subjects, in an expanded version of our website and also on special programmes broadcast on BBC iPlayer and BBC Red Button.

The Bitesize website you use now will expand to offer additional help for students and their parents. New Maths and English lessons will be available every day for all ages. These will be created with resources from Bitesize, other parts of the BBC and other education providers. The content of these lessons will be backed up by new videos, practice tests, educational games and articles. Regular lessons on other core subjects, including science, will also be available. Mums and dads can get advice on how to teach anyone who is home-schooling and the Bitesize website will also have guides for pupils with SEN (special educational needs).

BBC iPlayer and the Red Button service will host Bitesize Daily. These are six different 20 minute shows, each designed to target a specific age group, from ages five to 14, and for pupils throughout the UK.

# Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy Newsletter



## Let's get physical!

Here are some websites that children can access to keep active.

### **Boogie Beebies**

Website: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006mvsc>

Key stages: early years foundation stage

Description: videos that get younger children up and dancing with CBeebies presenters.

Registration: not required

### **Disney 10 Minute Shakeups**

Website: <https://www.nhs.uk/10-minute-shake-up/shake-ups>

Key stages: early years foundation stage to key stage 2

Description: 10-minute activities based on Disney films that count towards a child's 60 active minutes per day.

Registration: not required

### **Super Movers**

Website: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/supermovers>

Key stages: key stage 1 and key stage 2

Description: videos which help children move while they learn. They support curriculum subjects, including maths and English.

Registration: not required

### **#ThisIsPE**

Website: <https://www.afpe.org.uk/physical-education/thisispe-supporting-parents-to-teach-pe-at-home/>

Key stages: key stage 1 and key stage 2

Description: videos delivered by teachers focussing on the PE curriculum which are accessible on YouTube.

Registration: not required



# Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy Newsletter



## Term Dates 2019-2020

Benedict Biscop CE Academy 2019-20



September 2019						
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	School Closed/Holidays
	Bank Holidays
	Inset Days - pupils not in school

The Inset days may be subject to change.

# Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy Newsletter



## Term Dates 2020-2021

Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy 2020-2021



September 2020						
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