



# Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy

*"Every child is cherished as a unique individual" – Ofsted 2012*

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Headteacher: Mrs S Armstrong  
'All things are possible'

5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

## **Remote Learning**

Dear Parent/ Carers,

I would like to start, by thanking everyone for their continued patience and support, since the announcement late last night regarding the National Lockdown. We would like to apologise for the lateness of the communication sent to parents yesterday, due to technical difficulties with our emailing and messaging service, utilised by several schools – who also faced the same difficulties. We really appreciate the exceptionally positive comments and communication from parents received today, highlighting their understanding that school were made aware of the change at the same time as parents last night and that we have been working tirelessly to establish new systems today.

In line with national guidance, from today, pupils will be provided with remote education until the February half term holidays. School will remain open for children of critical workers and vulnerable pupils only.

Remote learning will be provided via Showbie and MS TEAMS [for 'live' sessions]. The class will follow their usual learning timetable and curriculum as much as possible.

The class teacher will share a daily timetable in the 'files' section of MS TEAMS – so you are aware of the lessons uploaded, the learning objective and the Showbie reference for any activities and resources. However, lessons can be accessed in any order [except 'live' lessons] and tasks will not be locked for completion, as we are aware that families may be sharing devices and that some pupils may access tasks early in the morning or after the usual school day timings. We do ask that parents encourage and support their child to complete the lessons and activities to the best of their abilities. More information is available for parents in the Remote Learning section of the school website.

If your child is experiencing difficulties completing any work, please do not worry, they can contact their class teacher on Showbie and the class teacher will respond as soon as possible. Alternatively, parents can email school, via the school info account, care of the class teacher and the school office will forward on the message.

We have aimed to provide a full curriculum for pupils to access from home. Every day we will provide a daily English session [with additional phonics and reading], a Mathematics session, theme and foundation subjects. Children will also be required to complete their usual home learning tasks of TT Rockstars and reading.

All children should have their login details recorded in their home learning diary. Please contact school [via the info email](mailto:info@benedictbiscopacademy.co.uk) if you have any issues with this, unfortunately due to reduced staff on site, we may not be able to respond to all calls immediately. It is expected that this login remains confidential to the family and not shared with other pupils or families. We expect pupils to keep their device secure by logging out if they are away from the device/the device is not in use. Pupils should use their own accounts, not their siblings' accounts to access remote learning. We ask adults to support pupils who require support logging in and accessing 'live' remote lessons and school will provide support to any families who require any additional support. We also ask parents/carers to ensure that appropriate filtering



settings are in place on the device being used. If you do not have access to any device, please contact the school immediately.

Thank you to everyone who managed to join us this afternoon for our first 'live' registration. School will continue to call all pupils at **10am each day** via MS TEAMS for 'live' registration, where we will share the learning for the day, recap expectations and online safety procedures and answer any questions that children have.

**Please note: all live sessions/registrations via teams will be recorded.** This means that children can play back the sessions and re-watch learning that they need consolidating. It will also help school staff to monitor behaviour and ensure that behaviour from all parties is appropriate. Pupils will be asked to mute their device by the teacher [unless they are asked a specific question] and pupils will be encouraged to blur backgrounds, as we are aware that other family members may be working in the background at home.

Pupils will be reminded by the class teacher, how to access the software required and the safe and appropriate ways to use it, including use of microphone, mute, camera, chat and hands up when they have their daily registration sessions.

We expect pupils to adhere to the following principles to ensure that learning is maximised and is as successful as possible:

- Attend at the expected time if it is a live registration or live teaching event. If they are unable to attend, parents should inform the school through the usual methods of non-attendance through the school office. The office will pass this information on to the adult delivering the session. We understand that at times there may be technical difficulties – please do not worry, pupils will be able to access the recorded session afterwards if they can not attend.
- The microphone should be muted when entering the live session or registration and the camera on.
- Pupils should follow our usual school rules whilst in the session, including expected behaviour and appropriate clothing.
- When writing in the comments/chat sections – comments and questions should be appropriate.
- Pupils should be in a shared living space, e.g. living room, kitchen, within earshot of another adult so they can be supported when required.
- Pupils should aim to complete all assigned activities for that day to the best of their abilities.

Please find below links to further online information to help parents and carers protect their child whilst they are learning remotely.

- [Childline](#) - for support
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - to report and remove harmful online content
- [CEOP](#) - for advice on making a report about online abuse Support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online includes:
  - [Internet matters](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
  - [London Grid for Learning](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
  - [Net-aware](#) - for support for parents and carers from the NSPCC
  - [Parent info](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
  - [Thinkuknow](#) - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online
  - [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - advice for parents, carers and students
  - [National Safety Online](#) – advice for parents and carers
  - [saferinternet](#) - advice on online safety

Where we become aware that children have experienced difficulties or haven't completed activities, we will contact parents to see if we can offer further support. We appreciate that parents may be working from home and trying to support more than one pupil, we understand that this is a new and challenging time for everyone and that experience will vary, we would therefore like to remind parents not to worry if a task can't be completed. A staff member will try and support your child at a later time.

We are also aware that we may need to make adaptations and improvements to the offer that we are providing and we will aim to communicate any changes to parents as soon as we are able to do so.

Please find attached our Showbie and MS TEAMS guides to further support you. These are also available on our school website. Please can parents download the free application on their device to support their child if they have not already done so.

Thank you again for your understanding and continued support during these challenging times. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact us directly through the school info account and we will aim to respond as soon as possible [[bbinfo@nllt.co.uk](mailto:bbinfo@nllt.co.uk)]. We will also be updating the school website with frequently asked questions, responses and support information for parents to access as soon as possible.

Please keep safe.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "SArmstrong". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'S' at the beginning.

Mrs Armstrong  
Headteacher