BRINGTON CofE SCHOOL
Together, striving to be the best that we can be!

Self-belief
Teamwork
Ambition
Respect

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School Closure and Home Learning

Dear Parents and Carers,

These really are challenging times and not until recently have I ever considered the prospect of having to prepare an action plan from which 'all' Brington children have access to curriculum learning from home on a daily basis. However, the dedicated Brington staff have been working around the clock to ensure that the home learning to take place will consolidate and build on prior knowledge. There are two schools of thought; one whereby schools send work home in a pack and ask the children to 'do their best' and return it (whenever that may be), or secondly to produce online, daily and progressive tasks whereby the children interact with their peers and ask teaching staff for assistance if they need it. We have chosen the latter.

Children at Brington are used to structured days filled with challenging and engaging learning opportunities and they thrive because of this. Even though the children will be learning from home, I feel that it is important, and within their interests, to retain a degree of structure and routine. This will no doubt be a difficult time for you and your children and the daily work set by the Brington staff will hopefully help them to keep focused and occupied whilst doing what they do best; having fun whilst learning. The lessons the teaching staff deliver will also be a reflection of the current situation we are all in; some days there may be gardening tasks or even baking tasks if adult supervision is available.

By the end of last week, we were fully prepared for a potential school closure and had a robust plan in place. The information below details how we intend to disseminate home-learning to all children on a daily basis. Please read it carefully so that you can assist your children where necessary. Although the teaching staff may not be able to reach the same of depth of learning as they do whilst at school, I know that we have used every available platform to ensure that the children can work independently and diligently when at home.

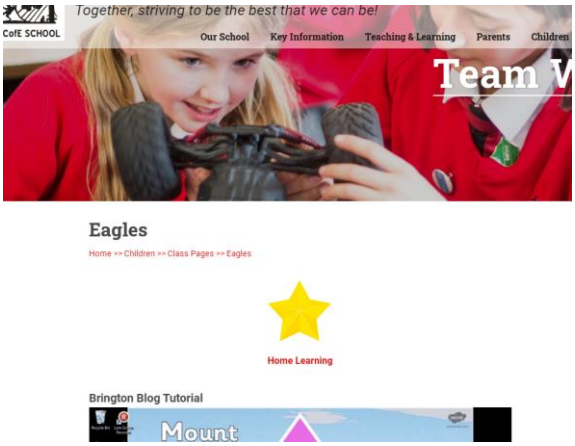
Teachers will be available to answer questions from children about the learning tasks using the Brington blogging facility (explained later) and if you have any other concerns or questions, please use my e-mail address to contact me: head@brington.cambs.sch.uk A further letter will be posted via ParentMail today regarding key workers.

Learning materials and equipment

Every child will receive an equipment pack from school on Friday. If your child will be absent, staff and governors are working to get them delivered to your door steps as soon as possible. The contents of the packs vary from class to class. Some contain maths and phonics equipment (predominantly Owls Class) which may be used to assist with the home learning tasks. Other packs include exercise books so that the children can carry out and present their learning activities in the same way that they do when at school. Please do keep all of the equipment safe and we would be grateful if you could return everything when schools re-opens.

Home learning via the school website

All home learning will be published on the class pages of the school website. All children and parents can access the daily learning activities by firstly clicking on the '**Children**' tab on the website home page, select **class pages** and then choose the class your child is in. At the top of each class page is a large yellow star called **home learning** which needs to be clicked on (see image below).



On the next sub-page, the dated stars will contain the work which will be set for that particular day. The class teachers and teaching assistants will deliver the tasks for the children in a variety of ways. Activities may be modelled or explained using pre-recorded teacher videos, PowerPoints with teacher voice-over or links to videos from educational websites. The activity sheets will then be displayed next to, or under the video explanation. The children should complete the work set in the exercise books provided. Class teachers will log-on and upload the morning Maths and Literacy activities at approximately 9am and the afternoon foundation subject activities will be uploaded at approximately 1pm. The foundation subject work will be linked to the children's current topics and the Maths and English tasks will be a mixture of consolidation of previous work and a continuation of what has already been taught this year. It is important to note that the Brington teachers and teaching assistants may also have families of their own who may fall within a vulnerable category or who may indeed be ill. So, if work is not uploaded immediately at the times specified above, please understand that the Brington staff will endeavour to upload all work as soon as possible.

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Brington blogs for children

All children (apart from EYFS as parent communication will be via Tapestry) have been taught how to use our school's new blogging facility. Their passwords will be in the packs that have been sent home in case they have forgotten them. If they are in Key Stage 1 or need reminding how to use the blogging facility, Mrs Williams has created an explanatory video which is also found on every class page. It would be a good idea for parents to also watch this video just in case your children need any assistance.

The blogs created by the children are on an 'internal' setting so that everything they write can only be viewed by their peers, teachers and teaching assistants (and me!) So, what is the purpose of the blogging facility? In class, when the children are being taught, they frequently put their hands up to ask the teaching staff a question, which all of the other children will hear and then the member of staff will answer that question. We ensure that all children hear these questions and answers as they can support other children's learning or might help them with something that they have been thinking about. The blogging carries exactly the same principle; during the learning tasks set on-line, if a child has a question, they can ask the class teacher via a blog question and the teacher can respond. All of the other children will see the child's question and the teacher's answer, just as they do in class, and they can then use it to help them with their own work if necessary. The blogging facility will help the children to have regular contact with the teaching staff during periods of learning which in turn will aid progress. In addition to this, children will be able to attach completed work or photographs of work to blogs which can then be sent to teaching staff for viewing. For example, the class teacher may ask those children who wish to, to share some art work or written poetry to the rest of the class via a blog entry.

Brington Blog expectations

The children are aware of the blogging expectations. Due to the fact that a member of staff has to authorise every blog question and comment before it goes live to the rest of the class, the children will not be able to use this platform for general chit-chat. I would rather the teaching staff spend all of their time authorising and answering questions about the work set in order to help those children who need assistance. I'm hoping that this will be a great tool for children to confidently reach out to staff members if they need help with the work set. Even though we have covered e-safety extensively as part of our school's curriculum, Mrs. Williams has created an e-safety video (related to blogging) which is also on the class pages. We would be grateful if you could enable you and your children to view it.

Child Safety

Below is a list of Safeguarding links provided by the Local Authority for parents should you require them. If in doubt, please do not hesitate to contact me using my e-mail: head@brington.cambs.sch.uk

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/

http://www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/children-board/parents-carers/

https://www.keep-your-head.com/cyp

https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/

https://www.womensaid.org.uk/

https://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/website/support__help/84011

Finally, Brington has an incredibly strong community and it is a community of which I am extremely proud to be a part of. Solidarity is key; let's stick together and hope that this storm passes quickly.

Best wishes,



Mr. Farrell

Headteacher