



Mr K Reid Headteacher B.Ed. (Hons), NPQH

8 January 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

I hope you and your families are keeping healthy during this latest lockdown. I want to begin by saying a huge thank you to the parents, carers and children for the support and understanding you have demonstrated this week.

I have had many messages from parents expressing their appreciation for the speed at which remote learning has got going, and for the efforts of the teachers and support staff. I have also dipped into classrooms and seen the enthusiasm of the children, as well as the efforts to support them from parents, older siblings and various pets.

We know that remote learning is no substitute for being in school but we are trying to offer the best we can, given the circumstances we find ourselves in. Please help your child to log in daily, as requested by their teachers, because we must do all we can to prevent children falling further behind.

Access to Technology

We were allocated a number of devices by the DfE for disadvantaged families whose children do not have access to laptops from home and these are almost gone now. We are looking at other avenues to obtain more laptops and devices to support internet connectivity. Once we have these they will be distributed based on a needs basis.

If you are having any problems logging in you should use the year group emails. If you do not have enough laptops at home, and children are having to share, email info@brampton.newham.sch.uk and we will be aware. We might not be able to provide a laptop at this point in time, but we should be able to organise a paper-based pack to be collected.

Coronavirus Update

I cannot stress highly enough how important it is that you only bring your child to school if they cannot be cared for at home. We have had 2 positive cases in school already this week, which has meant a number of children and adults have been sent home to self-isolate. With the new coronavirus variant more easily transmitted, it is essential you follow the government guidance:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home

If you, your child or any member of your household has coronavirus symptoms, you must not bring your child to school. The main symptoms are:

- A new, persistent cough,
- loss of taste or sense of smell, and
- a raised temperature or fever.





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Wellbeing

Please make sure you look after you and your child's wellbeing and ensure you all have regular breaks from the screens during the day. Hours spent in front of a monitor is not great for anyone's eyes or health in general.

Supporting your child at home can also be stressful for parents! Take breaks yourself and do something different with your child, away from the computer. If you feel you could do with a workout yourself, join in with Mr Gillingham or Kai, or PE with Joe Wicks on Youtube – it might just give you the energy to carry on during those days when it all gets too much. This can be a very trying time on families, when everyone is stuck at home together 24 hours a day. If you are struggling to support your child at home, reach out to your child's teacher or phase leader.

There will be times when children might not want to work, or join their class because they are in a different environment. Things might not work with the technology and you might not know what to do. Don't panic! You do whatever you can and do not worry about those times when things go wrong or do not go to plan. We know you are trying your very best as are the children. If you want any advice, or help, we are always here to help and support you.

I would never advocate children spending all their time staring at a laptop, or working nonstop while they are at home. However, if your child finishes their work really quickly, would benefit from something different to what has been set by their teacher, or is just super keen and has an insatiable thirst for learning, you could let them visit these websites that offer great videos and lessons:

https://www.thenational.academy/

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize

Whatever happens, we will get through this together.

Have a peaceful and safe weekend,

Mr Kevin Reid Headteacher