



Buckden Church of England Primary Academy

School Lane, Buckden, St Neots PE19 5TT

01480 810241 01480 811937 office@buckdenacademy.org www.buckdenschool.co.uk

Headteacher Mrs A Anderson **Deputy Headteacher** Mrs M Heather **SENDCo/Assistant Headteacher** Mrs R Bliss
Head of Lower School Mrs S Tarpey **Head of Upper School** Miss L Fozzard **School Business Manager** Mrs H Triance

15th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

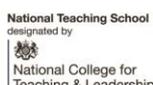
As promised, I am now able to write to you to offer further clarification on the remote learning provision now being provided for all pupils at Buckden for those pupils who are not in attendance at school. Firstly, I would like to thank all of you who have spoken to either myself, Mrs Heather or Mrs Bliss over this week. We did manage to cover the nearly all the school and where we couldn't speak to you, we left a message to let you know that we had called.

From our conversations we appreciate that this week has been a huge learning curve for all but we have got to the end of the first full week. Your feedback has been invaluable and I will set out what we are doing going forward so that we can continue to support each other as much as possible.

Our remote learning provision:

As you will be aware, schools are required to have a remote learning plan in place so that any child who cannot attend school because of COVID-19 does not miss out on their learning. We sent you our remote learning plan back in October. This provision has now been stepped up and is a full-scale package for pupil education and as such is compulsory (a Government requirement). That said I would like to offer some reassurance to parents about our expectations of children at home. It is very difficult for us to ensure the balance is right between expectations for remote learning set out by the Government and the individual needs of all our families. Learning from home will be an entirely different experience for each and every family. We recognise this completely and we will work with each family individually to ensure they feel as supported as possible during these difficult times. We do not want our learning offer to cause undue anxiety or stress for our families. This is what we have said to all of you that we have managed to speak to personally this week.

Our remote learning provision has been developed with our students and their families in mind, taking into account feedback and the experience of students and staff to date. We believe that this strategy works best for the children at our school. The details in this letter also aim to ensure consistency in the approach to remote learning for pupils who are not in school and set out expectations for all members of the school community with regards to remote learning.



We would like all parents to understand that remote learning differs this year to last year insofar as it is an expectation for pupils to access remote learning, as they would usually be expected to attend school. Our offer is more robust than last time, in line with government guidelines, but our support and understanding of the need for flexibility remains. Please contact your class teachers in the first instance if you have any concerns about the learning expectations, I feel certain they will be able to provide you with the reassurance you require.

We have therefore, on feedback from parents, made some further tweaks to how we are working on Teams and it will be consistent throughout the year groups to make it easier for all.

- Teams will be organised into daily folders so all you need to access for each day will be in that folder.
- We have put together a crib sheet attached to this email so you can see where to access everything. All crib sheets for accessing teams will be on the school website under Remote Learning Tab at the top of the page at the following link: [Remote Learning](#)
- There are cribs sheets for the following:
 1. How to access teams
 2. How to hand in an assignment
 3. How to turn off Chat
 4. How to use Immersive reader and Dictation
- At the beginning of each day on TEAMS there will be a summary outlining the work for the day (this will also be found on the class blog too)
- Independent working should be allocated the following times:
Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 – 20 minutes for activity
Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 30 minutes for the activity .
This is the **maximum** amount of time that any child should spend on an independent task. Please remember that every child is different and they will not necessarily complete all the work that is set but that is fine.
- Feedback on independent work should be written on the child's work so that the teacher is able to understand how the child has done. For example, this could be completed really quickly, need a little support but could do it, found it hard to complete, didn't understand etc. Please do not use the open channel to talk about individual children as individual feedback is hard for teachers to give this way. On the work it is much more relevant and specific to the pupil.
- Hands up in live sessions – a few parents mentioned that their child was not always asked when their hand was up. Please remember that at times there are between 30 – 40 pupils on a live lesson. As in class not all children are asked the answers all the time. There is the chat facility to ask questions if they aid with learning that the teacher/TA can answer for you.



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General questions and support:

We appreciate that you may have general questions and support that make help and iron out any initial difficulties so we have therefore, following parental feedback, set up 2 drop sessions per year group so that you can have **15 minutes** with the class teacher, as a group, to ask any general questions that you may need support with. This is not compulsory. Please see below for the timings:

Reception - Wednesday 3pm & Friday 3pm.

Year 1 - Tuesday 3pm & Thursday 3pm

Year 2 – Monday 2.45pm & Thursday 2.45pm

Year 3 – Tuesday 2.30pm & Thursday 2.30 pm

Year 4 – Monday 2pm & Wednesday 2pm

Year 5 – Tuesday 2.15pm & Thursday 2.15pm

Year 6 – Thursday 2.30pm & Friday 2.30 pm

Resources

Reading books – we have arranged for reading for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to be available to swapped from next week a separate email will be sent out to explain how this will work.

We are looking at the demand for reading books for KS2 and will send out a brief questionnaire on Monday to all parents.

Work books – please can you collect the children’s work books if you haven’t already from school so that they can complete their work in there.

We have ordered new work books so when your child finished them you are able to collect them from the reception foyer by prior notice. Please let the class teach know. You will be able to collect new work books on a Monday or a Friday.



PLEASE NOTE WHEN COLLECTING ANYTHING FROM SCHOOL ALL SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURES NEED TO BE ADHERED TO.

Active Learn/Power Maths – a number of parents have said that printing off from active learn is hard. You can use the ‘snipping tool’ to cut and paste into a word document before printing. I have been searching for the cheapest option to buy them and I have pasted the links below so you can order directly. You are welcome to look elsewhere, Amazon does stock all of them.

Power Maths Pupils Work Book 1B - [Year 1 Work Book](#)

Power Maths Pupil Work Book 2B - [Year 2 work book](#) or here [Year 2 Work Book](#)

Power Maths Pupils Work Book 3B - [Year 3 Work Book](#) or here [Year 3 Work Book](#)

Power Maths Pupils Work Book 4B - [Year 4 Work Book](#)

Power Maths Pupils Work Book 5B - [Year 5 Work Book](#) or here [Year 5 Work Book](#)

Power Maths Pupils Work Book 6B - [Year 6 Work Book](#)

Hints and Tips we have shared and learnt from the last lockdown.

Provide support for your children by (this will most definitely differ depending on the age and ability of your child):

- establishing routines and expectations
- defining a space for your child to work in
- monitoring communications from teachers
- beginning and ending each day with a check-in
- taking an active role in helping your children process their learning
- encouraging physical activity and/or exercise (we do have Lizell’s daily exercise and although timetabled at 9am this can be watched before/after as it is pre-recorded so fit it in with your own family schedule)
- checking in with your child regularly to help them manage stress
- monitoring how much time your child is spending online
- keeping your children social but setting rules around their social media interactions.
- seeking out and communicating with school staff as different needs arise and please use the drop in sessions.

Establishing routines: In between the remote lessons, it is important that students get up and move around. From the first day you will need to establish routines and expectations. We believe the scheduled live lessons will help establish routines. It is important that you set these expectations as soon as distance learning is implemented, not several days later after it becomes apparent a child is struggling with the absence of routine.



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Wellbeing:

Being confined to home for an extended period of time can cause stress and conflict. Tips for looking after your children during isolation include:

- Talking to your whole family about what is happening. Understanding the situation will reduce their anxiety.
- Help your children to think about how they have coped with difficult situations in the past and reassure them that they will cope with this situation too. Remind them that the isolation won't last for long.
- Exercise regularly. Options could include exercise DVDs, dancing, floor exercises, yoga, walking around the garden or using home exercise equipment, such as a stationary bicycle, if you have it. Exercise is a proven treatment for stress and depression. Lizell's daily exercise
- Encourage your children to keep in touch with family members and friends via telephone, email or social media (where appropriate).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff at Buckden for the amazing efforts they are making to ensure calm continuity within school. Staff are working tirelessly both in school and remotely. I sincerely believe that we have done all we can as a school and this is thanks to the hard work and efforts of our staff, our supportive community and the Board of Trustees. A special thank you to our office staff for managing with the enormously increased administrative workload including providing lunches in school and arranging vouchers for our free school meals pupils. Lastly, once again I thank the parents and carers for your unwavering support at this challenging time and your honesty and clarity in conversations, we have had this week. We will give you more information about remote learning as our experience progresses. We will continue to take on board your feedback and comments to improve our provision as much as we can. Together we will get through this.

With sincere thanks

Alison Anderson

