



MEMO – 20/3/20:

Dear Parents and Carers,

Update on Home Learning support during School closure re: Coronavirus/COVID-19

We wanted to write to you outlining in as much detail as possible the support and provision we have made, and will make ahead, regarding continuing delivering high quality learning opportunities and resources for yourselves and our pupils at home.

Please be assured that as a school we will be working in support of our pupils and yourselves throughout this period, continuing to provide educational input, support, advice and resources for you all.

Work packs: Initially we will be sending home class ‘work packs’ for every child, with enough work and full instructions to cover approximately two weeks work, taking us up to the official Easter holiday. We will also be sending children home with reading books and other resources that will aid home learning, including key stationery items.

On-going home learning: After this point teachers will be posting weekly work, tasks, support, videos, weblinks and advice on the school website, <https://www.bratton.wilts.sch.uk/> with each class teacher posting these on their class pages. We will also be publishing weblinks to pages that will allow yourselves and the children to work through more open ended projects and investigations across a range of subjects, to bolster on-going learning and development. These weblinks will cover a full breadth of subjects and learning and will be regularly updated, including a brief explanation of what the link will support and lead to, including, as an example, PE sessions with the body coach, Joe Wicks - <https://www.thebodycoach.com/blog/pe-with-joe-1254.html>.

Professor assessor: This is an online tool and resource we use to support maths teaching in school. It allows us as teachers to target work and interventions for every child, at their level and right down to only allowing them to access and work on tasks and skills teachers have specifically prepared for them. The work is then marked by the website/programme itself and that information is fed back to teachers, allowing them to check progress and understanding, then to set future learning. The programmes will also then produce follow up tasks and intervention packages for the children that focus on building strengths and addressing misconceptions. It also has extensive times table practice tasks, with rewards associated. We will therefore be sending home each child with their professor assessor

logins in their homework pack. To access the site, please click on the link <https://www.prof123.co.uk/Start> and to learn more about it please click on <https://www.professorassessor.co.uk/>

Mathletics: We have, as a school, this week purchased a year's subscription to mathletics for every pupil. Mathletics is an online maths learning tool, that again can be managed by our teachers to tailor work to individual and class needs, as well as allowing teachers to monitor usage, understanding and support misconceptions, and to recommend new work. The site is also full of engaging maths games, puzzles, tutorials and allows children to play these games against students from all over the world, safely within the confines of the site. Once again, children will be coming home with logins in their packs and to access this, please follow the link <https://www.mathletics.com/uk/> and to find out more about the application, please visit <https://www.mathletics.com/uk/for-schools/>

Reading eggs: As with mathletics, we have this week purchased a year's subscription to reading eggs. This is an online reading resource, encompassing access to many reading texts, extracts of books, reading games and particularly reading comprehension activities. As with mathletics, teachers can monitor, guide and lead learning, in response to children's progress, and, as above, there are many independent learning opportunities for the children to take advantage of. They will again come home with a login in their homework packs today and to access the site, please click the link <https://readingeggs.co.uk/> and visit <https://readingeggs.co.uk/about/parents> to find out more about the resource.

Google classroom: We have this week purchased a domain name, being brattonprimary.co.uk, meaning we can now host Google Classroom for all of our pupils. Google classroom is a tool that will allow our teachers to set work, upload videos, pre-plan future learning and to then receive feedback from pupils on their learning, as well as receive scanned work and mark children's homework online. We are not yet ready for this to go live and I will be finalising details across the next two weeks. Each child will get a fully secure individual login and password and that will be linked to their class teachers and classes' page alone. It is a great resource to maximise home learning and I look forward to updating you when I have more details. Please visit https://edu.google.com/products/classroom/?modal_active=none to find out more.

BBC resources: We are not yet entirely clear on what this will look like, but the BBC have stated they will be providing educational programming and support to children and families during this school closure period. Historically, BBC content has always been strong educationally so please look out for these opportunities, as well as the BBC bitesize website at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

I have sought clarification from Public Health England on whether we can also aid you as parents by printing out future work and allowing you to come and collect and distribute it from the school. They have said there is no protocol at present from their end to not allow this, as long as it is staggered and not on mass. We will therefore look at staggering release of documents, as and when needed, with these dates and times sent out to you ahead of time. This should also allow any parents of children not in school today to come in and collect the work packs for their children, which are all fully prepared, and will be available across the coming weeks.

We also intend to remain in contact with you all as much as we can, still sending out letters and newsletters to ensure everyone feels connected to the school and to each other, during this unusual period of not being together as a whole school community.

We thank you all for your support and understanding. If you have any specific queries related to education you can also speak to The Department For Education which has a special helpline which can be used by parents and which offers advice and guidance. The line is open from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday. Phone: 0800 046 8687 Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Please be assured we will continue to follow the latest government and Public Health England advice and we will keep everyone updated via our school communications and if you have any concerns or questions about the home learning in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office.

Regards,
Mr Ian Bolton
Headteacher