

## Week 1 of Remote Home Learning

Dear Parent

I hope that you have had the chance to prepare yourselves over the weekend for your first week of remote home learning. We are all finding our way with this and I am sure that we will find routines and structures as the week progresses.

The first thing to emphasis before we get into some of the information to support home learning is the need to reduce contact. The message from the government is simple: **stay at home**. This is the only effective way that the spread of the virus can be reduced.

I would like to thank all the parents who have worked hard to ensure that they can keep their child at home – many of you key workers yourselves. This is something that has been very clearly emphasised by the government: if you are a key worker and your child can stay at home, that is where they should be.

### Support for Remote Learning:

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At the end of this letter is a list of all staff emails so that your child can contact their teacher with any questions that they have. All teachers have already been emailing students with guidance on their work to their school email addresses.

It is therefore **very important that your child can access their school email address and use this for all correspondence with their teachers.**

Note also that we have provided access for all of our students to the ClassCharts app as well as parents. This means that they can see all work set by staff in addition to the more detailed information that they will get via their email. They will have been contacted about logging into ClassCharts. If they are unsure about ClassCharts then they can email any of the following for further guidance:

[m.daniels@balshaws.org.uk](mailto:m.daniels@balshaws.org.uk)

[r.turner@balshaws.org.uk](mailto:r.turner@balshaws.org.uk)

[i.lang@balshaws.org.uk](mailto:i.lang@balshaws.org.uk)

### Instructions for your child to log in to their school email:

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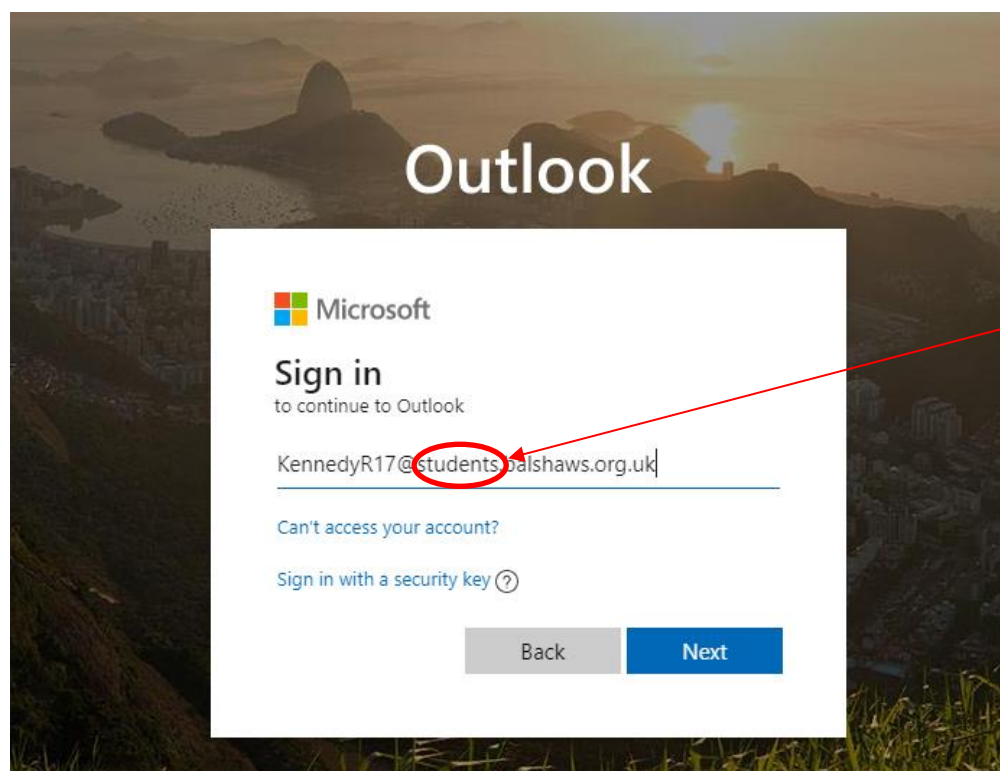
1. Type mail.balshaws.org.uk into the address bar at the top of your browser (the address bar, not a search form):



2. Login using their email username before [@students.balshaws.org.uk](mailto:@students.balshaws.org.uk).

This has the format Surname + Initial + Year started. So, for example, if your child is called Robert Kennedy and they started Year 7 in 2017 their email address would be:

[KennedyR17@students.balshaws.org.uk](mailto:KennedyR17@students.balshaws.org.uk)



Note that people sometimes miss the s at the end of students.

3. The password will be the password that they use to log in at school.

That should get your child into their email where they will have messages from their teachers and will be able to communicate with them.

### **What structure and routines should I put in place for my child?**

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Clearly this will vary from family to family, but the following guidance will certainly be useful:

- Keep a routine between 9.00 and 3.00 with a set time for breaks and lunch.
- Your child may wish to follow the timetable that they would have for the day as they work through the materials that have been set.
- Keep an area of your house as the area for study if you can.

Don't forget that reading books is going to be a really good way for your child to continue their educational development. An hour or more of reading a good book everyday will be really helpful for your child.

### **What about education programmes on the television?**

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The BBC have said that they will start to broadcast educational programmes during the day for young people working at home. It's not clear yet how suitable these will be for secondary school age children, but there is no reason why watching educational programmes should not be a part of the diet that your child receives.

### **Keep in touch:**

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As I said above, we will continue to develop new ways of working as we have more time in this situation – for example, it may be possible to webcast an assembly for the school once per week. St Andrew's church have made their services available via YouTube and you may wish to view these using the link below:

Part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQwuo6OzNBM>

Part 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQ6OZcIIqrc>

## Keep carrying on – but at home!

I will keep in touch with you all as we continue (the list of staff emails is below). There is no guide book for what is happening at the moment. One thing is clear, we need to do all that we can to reduce all social contact as far as is possible and remain in our homes – only in this way can we reduce the spread of the virus and bring an exit point for the current situation. Be strong for your children and each other.

Best wishes,

Mr Steven Haycocks

HEADTEACHER

BALSHAW'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

Your Word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path. (Psalm 119, vs 105)

## Staff Email Addresses:

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