



Burtonwood CP  
Newsletter  
27th January 2021



# Remote Learning

A huge WELL DONE to all our students learning from home in this third lockdown—and our thanks to parents and carers for supporting them, particularly our youngest children.

I'm delighted to say that now over 96% of our remote learners are engaging with at least some of the activities set on a daily basis.

Our remote learning offer, in conjunction with the other Omega MAT primary schools, has been posted on Seesaw and in the Home Learning section of our website. Please do take a look at this. We have also included a document in a question and answer format to support parents with further details of remote education specifically at Burtonwood.

Watch this space for the results of our Seesaw request for parent feedback, which was generally very positive about Seesaw as a learning platform, the recorded teacher explanations, and the interaction between the children at home and the adults in class. We are now collating issues raised and considering how we might improve our offer following your feedback.

Adults in class are receiving hundreds of notifications on a daily basis and doing their utmost to respond to these as promptly as possible. However, blended learning has increased teacher workload considerably; most have been working a 15 hour day, often with unpaid support from their class teaching assistant. This level of commitment has been incredible and a credit to the professionalism of staff but it is not sustainable to always be 'on call' for support and feedback late into the evening. In order to better manage teacher workload with both in-school and remote learning:

- Uploads and messages after 5:30pm will be not be actioned until the following morning, or Monday morning if sent on a Friday evening or over the weekend. There is usually a lull in the first hour of the day while children at home are completing the work after it first goes live and the previous evening's uploads will be responded to then.
- Multiple individual messages on the same topic or issue will be addressed in a whole class post;
- Feedback requiring more than a sentence will largely be audio message as this is more time-efficient (and we are told the children at home prefer it!);
- All classes will have full time TA support until half term, as far as possible around staff availability.
- When it is the class teacher's Planning, Preparation and Assessment (PPA) time, which is usually 2 hours a week, they are not expected to respond to uploads and messages. Another adult will do this.

# Home Testing For Primary Staff

You may have seen in the media that the Government are issuing lateral flow testing kits for home testing of a primary staff. 1 in 3 people infected with Covid19 are asymptomatic but can still spread infection. The aim of the lateral flow testing is to identify anyone asymptomatic, and these tests are accurate at picking up a high level of virus shedding, when the person would be most infectious.

We have received our first allocation of these testing kits and will begin using them tomorrow. Taking part in the programme is not mandatory but the majority of staff have chosen to do so. These staff members will take two tests 3-4 days apart, each week and report results to the NHS and to school.

## Mid-Year Reports and Parents Evenings

Due to the lockdown, teachers will not be writing the usual February mid-year reports to parents. The majority of the children are not in school so we cannot do our mid-year assessments which the reports would have been based upon.

Instead, we will offer parents longer telephone parents evening appointments (15 minutes) after half term so that they can celebrate successes and share any issues and concerns about their child's learning, with time for a more in-depth dialogue.

We thank you for your understanding and support around these changes.

## Tasty Lunch Ideas for Home

For those missing Mrs Samm's cooking, the Change4Life website has some delicious ideas to mix up lockdown home lunches!

Visit <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/lunch/cheap-lockdown-lunch-ideas/>

## Postcards!

For those children learning from home and missing out on celebration assemblies in school, teachers are going to choose two Stars of the Week to receive a special postcard through the post and be celebrated on Seesaw.

I will also be sending Head Teacher's Award postcards to those children who have produced a very special piece of work or put in excellent effort with remote learning.



We really do value every activity completed at home. Keep going—you're doing amazingly!