



Shadwell Primary School  
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24<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope you all enjoyed a restful Easter break and enjoyed some quality time (and chocolate!) with your children and family.

As you know, our new work packs were launched this week and following your feedback and subsequent review, we have now made a decision to send all the work in PDF format and for children to access their learning via the screen. Our aim is to reduce the amount that may have required printing and for your child/ren to respond to the learning on paper. Please do be in touch with your child's teacher if you would like for us to send you an exercise book, if you don't have access to any stationery.

I have various useful updates for you:

### Learning Support

I am certain you and your children will be very busy already with the work our teachers are sharing with you. However, if you fancy taking a look, on Monday, the **BBC** launched an **education package** across TV and online, featuring celebrities and teachers, helping to keep children learning at home and supporting parents. There are three lessons a day and you can specifically select Primary-phase teaching.

**BBC Bitesize** can be accessed here:

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

### DfE Information, Support and Guidance

The Department for Education have published information, guidance and support for parents and carers of **children who are learning at home** during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.



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Tel: 0113 2732729, 01937 843682  
Executive Head Teacher; Mrs S Richards BSc (Hons) PGCE  
Executive Deputy Head Teacher: Mrs V Wilson BEd (Hons)



Guidance on helping children **aged 2 to 4 learn at home** can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-children-aged-2-to-4-to-learn-at-home-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

Guidance on helping **primary school aged children learn at home** can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-primary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

The **guidance for parents and carers on the closure of educational settings** has been updated with additional information on the support available for parents, online educational resources and support for vulnerable children. The guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

### **Internet Access and Digital Devices from the Government**

From Wednesday 20th April, schools, trusts and local authorities will be able to place orders for technology to support on-line learning. Unfortunately, initially, this will be for key cohorts of **secondary aged pupils** who currently do not have access to the internet or digital devices. Our schools have attempted to ensure all our children have access to a device for on-line learning however if you are in a position where you believe your child is disadvantaged because you do not have any access to the learning we are providing, please do not hesitate to be in touch.

### **Anxious Behaviour**

If you have noticed that your child/ren are demonstrating any signs of anxiety or are aware of becoming anxious throughout these uncertain times, we have added a really wonderful resource (entitled 'OWLS') on our website (under 'Coronavirus' section). This booklet outlines 'how to prepare for anxious times' and also how you can deal with acute anxiety / panic. Some children will be more aware of their feelings and emotions at this time, others will not be phased. This resource will not be a necessity for everyone however it may help you if you feel your child/ren are demonstrating changes in behaviour – usually with children we see restless nights, vivid dreams and frequent tummy aches / butterflies in their tummy. Please feel free to use this resource and don't hesitate to be in touch with your child's teacher if you are becoming really worried – we have a protocol in place for supporting you, should your child need further support.



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## Re-opening of Schools

There has been a great deal of **speculation around when schools will reopen**. We have had no official dates shared with us and indeed, conjecture for the 11<sup>th</sup> May by hopeful journalists and ministers, was rebutted by Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson earlier this week. He made it very clear that the five 'tests' by the Government would need to have been fulfilled before any consideration for schools and businesses to reopen could be made.

Mr Williamson has stated, 'the current frenzy of speculation about schools clearly comes from people outside of the education arena demonstrating a profound misunderstanding of schools and the education context...Instructing school leaders and their teams to return without including them in the planning stages or sharing proper safety arrangements would be extremely reckless'.

This week, I received a phone call from the Local Authority on behalf of the Department for Education which demonstrated and confirmed the sentiment within this statement. Indeed, the Government *do* want to make certain schools will be in a position to reintegrate children back into their buildings when it is entirely safe to do so. Of course, as the Education Secretary stated, we all want our children to 'experience the joy of being at school' however currently, we must trust that the decisions being made are in the best interests of the children and so we continue to plan for our children to learn from home and we thank you whole-heartedly for your patience and support at this time.

Thank you to everyone, for your lovely comments to teachers and for your support in doing the very best you can in supporting home-schooling. Please also, when you can, take the opportunity to enjoy your children and their world; to play, talk, bake, make and laugh! We are hoping in the coming weeks to contact every family, with a courtesy phone call, to check you're all OK; to catch up and chat with you and the children where possible...we miss you!

Have a lovely weekend, I will be back in touch next week. Until then, please look after yourselves and one another; stay at home, protect the NHS and save lives.

With kindest regards,

**Sarah Richards**

Executive Head Teacher

Bramham Shadwell Federation

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