



*Challenge, Equality & Opportunity*

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

### **Learning at Home**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you have all had an enjoyable Easter holiday, even in these most unusual of times! It seems like a long time since our school family was together and we are all really missing everyone. However, we know that our actions are making our communities safer and, as a school, we are all playing our part in different ways.

Thank you for taking part in the Learning @ Home activities which teachers set for children last term. We appreciate your efforts in trying to keep the children engaged in their learning, we know it's not easy! We have been reviewing what provision we can make and would like to introduce some changes. We think that a little bit more structure and direction would be welcome in what is going to be the third week of Learning @ Home.

From Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April, each child in Reception, KS 1 & 2 can complete the following:

- One English activity each day from the Pie Corbett activities saved on the website and described in the attached letter from Mrs Ward.
- One maths activity each day from the White Rose activities online and described in the attached letter from Mr Burnett.
- A range of topic activities each week for other subjects as described in the attached letter from Reception/KS1/KS2 teachers.

All instructions for English and Maths are in the letters from Mr Burnett and Mrs Ward. The White Rose materials are online and the English activity booklets are saved on our website. The topic activities will be saved weekly on the website in the Key Stage folders. Please let us know if you have any difficulties accessing them. Please remember that we do not expect everyone to be able to complete everything each day. We know that some of you are working from home at the same time as looking after your children and we understand the demands of that situation. We also know that, other than for parents and carers who work in education, the primary curriculum will be unknown to you. Just do what you can and what you are comfortable with. I would advise prioritising reading, talking, some maths and some writing if you are really short of time. Remember also that we are retweeting some lovely opportunities such as live sessions with authors and illustrators, physical challenges from the PE service and other partners as well as many other interesting ideas which we have found online. Rhonda Crosby is also keen to share some art activities via Twitter and we will retweet these too. Well done to some children who have also set some challenges online, Mr Burnett almost got full marks in Katie's flag quiz this week!

Twitter is a great way of keeping a sense of the school family, so please get involved if you can. Teachers will also continue to make phone calls to keep in touch with you all, these will be fortnightly for most of you.

### **Free School Meal Provision**

Families who are entitled to free school meals (other than through the universal offer for Reception and KS1), please let us know if you are not in receipt of your vouchers. Thanks to Mrs Whatnell who has worked relentlessly on this for the past couple of weeks and it has been extremely challenging, you might have seen this in the media as it has been an ongoing problem nationally.

### **Staffing News**

I am delighted to share the news that Mrs McMeekan is now well enough to return to work! She is re-joining the staff team from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April and is very keen to get started. She is really disappointed that she can't be in school every day with the children, as is everyone else at the current time. Mr Corbishley is staying with us for now as we need capacity on the staff team to manage the current situation, both from home and at school, and we still have several staff who remain unable to come to school due to health conditions which make them vulnerable.

We still have no indication of when school life will resume in its usual way and we have no option other than to make the best that we can of these times. We are here for you if you need us – we monitor the admin email account ([admin@brodaway.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:admin@brodaway.newcastle.sch.uk)) daily and are happy to answer any questions for you. Stay in touch and stay safe everyone!

Best wishes

Helen McKenna

Headteacher