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Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the last week of the spring term, I wanted to take this opportunity to provide a few updates with regard to the current situation. I also wanted to stress how important to us that we do as much as we can to support parents, children and families during these particularly challenging times; as such we are putting together a short online survey to get feedback from you to inform our next steps. Do please look out for this on a separate email from Becky tomorrow.

### Home Learning

We hope that everyone has been able to access the home learning activities provided by the teachers in some shape or form. The teachers are working hard to ensure that these are as practical and accessible as possible. Please know that there is no set routine for Home Learning; the important thing is that you find a structure/pattern that works for you and your family set up which may mean a little some days, more on others. This week we also emailed the same content out to parents as we understand that it is sometimes easier than logging onto the VLE page on the school website and we will continue to make the home learning available through both channels when we return after Easter.

Additional Resources:

- Pobble 365 - an online literacy resource that uses engaging and inspiring pictures (a different one each day) as the starting point for a series of activities such as comprehension and writing.
- Hamilton Trust maths and literacy home learning packs (Y1 and Y2)
- BBC Bitesize



### Daily lessons coming soon

Beginning Monday 20 April, BBC Bitesize will publish daily online lessons for all ages. We'll also have a new dedicated TV channel full of learning content, podcasts on BBC Sounds and loads of educational video on iPlayer.

[More about home learning](#)

### VLE Messages

If you haven't discovered this feature already, do encourage your child to contact their class teacher to let them know how they are getting on/ask questions/share photos etc. Teachers log onto their VLE class pages every day and will reply in person (although please note that this might not be on the same day). They have said how lovely it has been to see such great learning from the children so far. Children need to be logged on using their **picture** log in (found on the inside cover of their yellow reading record books) in order to access this feature (not through the parent log in). Teachers will also message out to their class as a whole using this facility.





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## Zoom Story Times



We have all been on a steep learning curve over the past couple of weeks with regard to ‘virtual’ means of contact and communication. Following a zoom staff meeting earlier this week,

each class teacher is going to try their hand at a class story time using Zoom either today (Y1) or Friday (YR and Y2). Please look out for an email from the school office containing an invite with a link to click on to access these and bear with us through any teething troubles. These invites will also be posted on the class VLE pages in the message feature. Our aim is to then develop this contact further after Easter, most likely involving small groups of learners in order to make the interaction more personal.

## Easter - Key Workers

You may have read that schools will be providing child care for any key workers over the traditional 2 week Easter break (excluding the bank holiday weekend). Whilst continuing to strongly advise that children remain at home where there is an adult there to supervise them, where this is not the case due to a parent providing an essential service in a key worker role, we will provide/facilitate such care. Please note that this may not be located on our school site, more likely at another local setting, due to anticipated low demand. As referenced in my communication last week however, do please let us know any requirements in this regard so that we can plan accordingly.

## Hardship

We are all very aware of the impact this shut down will be having on families in many respects, but particularly financially, with businesses closing and many being unable to work and losing valuable income. Those families who meet the threshold to receive ‘free school meals’ (even though all infant school meals are free) due to their income, benefits etc. are entitled to food vouchers at this time. These vouchers were distributed last week and we will be in touch again straight after Easter with the next instalment. Do get in touch if you have any queries. If you think you may now qualify, please complete the attached and return to the school office (in confidence) so that we can complete the online checking tool to find out. If you are experiencing hardship and don’t qualify for these vouchers, do get in touch anyway as we may be able to arrange for food parcels from the foodbank to help you out.





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### Togetherness

I was forwarded this video in the week which I hope will play for you (click [here](#)). It is uplifting and focuses on much needed positives that might be taken from the current situation.

Please remember that we are here for you. If your child is struggling in any way, we are still around. Send us an email and we can get back to you. The Busbridge Infant School Community spirit remains strong even if we are not physically together at this time.

### And Finally



And if you are not yet a friend on the Busbridge Infant School PTA Facebook page, your children won't have experienced Mrs Scully's Brain Gym video this week. That alongside Joe Wicks' PE – what better way to start the day?!



Best wishes,

Katherine Smith

