



8th January 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians

Thank you so much for all your support during a very challenging week for everyone. The whole school community has really rallied round and shown some true resilience especially with technology. It has been lovely to see lots of the children accessing the live sessions as these are really helpful to the children during the day both for their learning and with the opportunity to have contact with teachers and peers. If you have not been able to access these sessions at home so far and are struggling with this, please contact school and we will support you. Try not to give up because we will get there in the end and your children will benefit from this contact. These live sessions are crucial for the children. Throughout this week, I know that there have been teething problems and I am sure you will have had your own difficulties with timings, routines and technology but we will all work together to overcome any issues and make the sessions the best for the children. Teachers would appreciate any issues being shared with them as there may be a quick solution and adaptation that can be made. It has been lovely for some staff to receive positive emails about their efforts this week- it has been a very difficult week and these notes of thanks have been gratefully received. It has helped to boost morale and we appreciate your kind words.

School does not have a IT technician on site nor the most up to date equipment in school due to limited funding from the government so please bear with us if there are technical glitches along the way. We are working hard to troubleshoot and solve problems. In the news it states that DFE have provided laptops to school to give out. Britannia have received 3 devices so we are unable to provide this for all 234 children in school. However, you can access all the learning and Google Meets through tablets, I-pads, I -phones, android phones, laptops, X-boxes, Playstations and smart TVs. These have been tried and tested by members of our school community and they have all been successful. If you require any support please ask us and we will advise where we can. There is an expectation that children in KS1 complete 3 hours per day and an expectation that KS2 complete 4 hours of learning per day. This is provided by the live sessions and the online learning plan which is on the webpage. It is also essential that the children read each day so they do not lose the skills that they have acquired over time. We know the challenges there are with this for some families but some learning can be completed out of school hours or at weekend and we ask you to just try your best.

I am including some information that may support your child with their home learning that some of our parents have suggested and teachers have shared.

Home Learning Tips and Support for School

1. If possible, please have your child sat in an appropriate place for their learning- at a table with their equipment helps to keep them focussed. Try to help your child find a reasonable



Head teacher: Mrs Natalie Longstaff
Britannia Primary School, Rochdale Road, Britannia, Bacup, Lancashire OL13 9TS
Tel: 01706 874447 Email: bursar@britannia.sch.uk Web: www.BritanniaPrimary.co.uk



workspace. We know this may be difficult if other family members are working from home but please try and support your child with this as much as you can.

2. Enter the class Meets and turn off your microphone.
3. Talk to your child about the use of the chat function and its purpose on Google Meet.
4. Children need to attend the Google Meets on time because otherwise your child may miss valuable learning if they are late.
5. If you have headphones that your child can use these are useful to shut out any background noise and help keep them focussed.
6. The drawing pin function on the teacher's picture enables you to only see them on the screen- therefore reducing the distractions to your child. (All you need to do is hover over the teacher and click on the drawing pin tool.)
7. Be patient and give things time – sometimes the Meet can echo but after time to settle it does resolve but let your teacher know via email if it is not resolving.
8. I know that some parents are struggling with the times of the Meet sessions but please remember the online learning plan is on the home learning page on the school website. There are teaching videos within this so if your child misses the live session, they should complete the online video and learning.
9. Please encourage your child to not bring pets and toys onto the Google Meet so they are ready to learn. There may be exceptions to this if children are on a social meet as organised by your teacher.
10. Children should be wearing appropriate clothing and NOT sleep wear. Any child wearing inappropriate attire next week will be removed from the meeting.
11. Due to safeguarding reasons, Google Meets should not be recorded and if this happens your child will be unable to access the session. We have had an incident already where a member of staff has been recorded by a parent and then this shared over snapchat. This is not acceptable!
12. We know you are trying hard to support your children alongside school but when the teachers are reading a story and the whole family is in the video it can be quite intimidating for staff. Please support us with this by trying to keep off camera where you possible can – we know this will be more difficult for the younger children.
13. If you have a question to ask the teaching staff, please email the queries and try not to ask the questions mid lesson as it can disrupt the flow of the lesson for the staff in school.

School staff will be taking registers throughout each meet session and if your child has not accessed the Meet you may be contacted from either the school number or an unknown caller for a discussion. Please ensure that work is emailed to the staff in school regularly (a few times a week) or placed on their Google Classroom account if they have been instructed to do so. It is important that children are continuing to learn during this closure. If your child does not send in work regularly then you will be contacted to see if you require any further support. Teachers are extremely busy and under a great deal of pressure. They also have their own families going through challenging times so I have instructed my staff to ensure that they do not respond to emails at weekends and in the evenings except in exceptional circumstances. If you email on a Friday evening, you will not receive a response until the following week.

Children Receiving In School Educational Provision

As you will know, school have been inundated with requests for places and unfortunately we have been unable to accommodate everyone.



We have a duty of care to the staff, pupils and community to try and reduce the transmission of COVID 19. The numbers of cases in the UK are rising and the numbers of children in school at some point may still have to be reviewed. School are having daily requests from families who are in need of support so I urge those with places to carefully and honestly consider when you require the educational provision for your child/children so that we can support as many families in need as possible. If you are able to keep your child at home, then this is the best and safest place for them and the community. As we have a waiting list for places, if your child is seen mingling with other children in the community your place may be withdrawn as this presents a risk to our frontline staff.

Children in school should continue to wear uniform each day or school PE kits on their class PE day. School will be contacting parents next week to ask about required days for the following two weeks in order for us to prepare. It would be a great help to us if you could have your dates ready to tell us or email them through. **This is only if you have been allocated a place.**

I am awarding you and your children Star of the Week for your support and incredible resilience. The Britannia community is very special and you all never cease to amaze me with your support for each other and the school. I am extremely proud to lead such a great school and I cannot thank you enough for your support. Week 1 is done. Breathe and reflect on all you have achieved this week. I hope you have a restful and enjoyable weekend with your families. Stay safe and keep smiling.

Yours faithfully

N Longstaff

Headteacher