

Beech Green Primary School

“Believe Grow Persevere Succeed”

Newsletter for Thursday 26th March 2020

School to Home – Week 1



Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your positive comments and support this week. At Beech Green, we want to help you as much as we possibly can: it must be so difficult to juggle family life, home schooling and your own work, plus if someone is unwell in your household and you are having to self-isolate. A huge 'well done' to you and a million Monster Merits (or class Dojo points) to your children! We love the photos and activities you have emailed and tweeted back: they look great. I have never been more proud of a school community and the way we have all pulled together.

Our middle child sent me some funny memes about school at home. He's a primary teacher in Bristol, now a Key Worker. The work that we all usually do has now been passed to you. But what you're doing is much harder. Teaching is an awesome job: those light bulb moments when a child suddenly 'gets it' are a precious reward for hours of work. It's much more complex than it looks: the most difficult bit, which you may now be noticing, is getting them to sit still and quiet long enough to learn. Some children are 'school shaped': they just absorb stuff and strive to achieve, whereas others need a bit more motivation. A few top tips below: if you've got it sorted, please tell us what's working for you and we'll pass it on.

Firstly, if you or your children are finding this difficult, please contact your child's teacher. They are there to help with anything they could provide:

A structured daily timetable

Different work

Rough time guides - how long to spend on each subject;

Set your criteria e.g. time, quantity and quality expectations.

Routine - usually impossible in our busy lives but it may be a bit easier now, email your child's teacher for some guidance – but remember, it has to be a routine which works for you and your family;

Relevance - you know your children so you might be able to adapt the work to their interests, but teachers can help with ideas and alternative lessons.

Tomorrow's class ParentMail includes a message and quick survey that I have asked teachers to send. I will use your feedback to get a better understanding of what is working and not working for you. Our staff is also completing a mini survey to share their ideas about more or different things we can do for you all.

We are very proud of our community's response: I have just about managed to contact all the families who hadn't replied to emails, our Key Worker childcare is as safe as we can make it and we continue to offer as much additional support to vulnerable pupils as we can. We're adapting all the time.

The most important thing is that you and your incredible children stay safe and well. We miss them. Remember we are still here for you and your family, please use our community for help if you need it.

Mrs Julie Poulson - Headteacher

@beech_green



All Key Worker Childcare enquiries to: covid19@beechgreen.gloucs.sch.uk

Ernest Cook Trust Grant

Some good news:- The Trustees of the Ernest Cook Trust have kindly agreed to pay us a grant of £500.00 towards wellies and waterproofs. We are delighted to be a successful recipient for the ECT Outdoor Essentials grant and we hope many pupils will be able to benefit from the outdoor clothing, which the grant will buy, when we get back to our normal school routine. Thank you

Children entitled to Free School Meals

Caterlink is providing packed lunches for children who would be entitled to a Free School Meal (FSM) if they were in school. **(This is the Free School Meal based on financial circumstances and not the Universal Free Meal that was provided to all Reception to Year 2 children.)**

Mrs Phillips sent emails to the parents of all children currently entitled to FSM last week, asking if they would like a meal prepared for collection from school.

If your child is entitled to one and you would now like Caterlink to prepare a meal for them, please email the Covid19@beechgreen.gloucs.sch.uk email address and Mrs Phillips will get back to you. The meal will include a half baguette with a choice of filling (choose from Ham, Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Egg Mayo – but these options are subject to change), a piece of fruit, carrot, cucumber and pepper and a piece of cake. The meals are now going to be prepared off site and delivered to the school for parents, family or neighbours to collect. (If you are self-isolating then please send someone to collect on your behalf – thank you.)

Should your circumstances change and you become entitled to FSM for your child/children information is available on this link on how to claim: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-transport-and-free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals/>

If and when your entitlement is confirmed and you would like to order a meal please email Covid19@beechgreen.gloucs.sch.uk.

Coronavirus Social Story

There is a delightful little booklet going around school, put together by Miss White. It helps explain to young children what on earth is going on during these strange days and often worrying times. We are sending you a copy with the newsletter – hope it helps.

League Table of TT Rockstars

These are the scores on the doors as at 4pm yesterday. Points are calculated on how much the children have played and how many correct answers they've got.

Well done to EVERY year group for such a great week! Will anyone topple Years 4 and 6 from the top spots next week?

Position	Class	Points
1	Dogwood 4	16,164
2	Acacia 6	13,289
3	Hornbeam 4	9,194
4	Sycamore 6	9,027
5	Frisia 5	4,145
6	Willow 2	3,581
7	Whitebeam 5	3,576
8	Birch 2	2,845
9	Hawthorn 3	1,888
10	Rowan 3	1,692
11	Maple 1	788
12	Elder 1	625

Home Learning

Lots of you have been emailing us to tell us what you have been up to in your [#BeechGreenHomeSchool](#) and tweeting us with your pictures. We've seen Lego challenges, tuck shops, lots of work on TTRockStars, great story writing, PE with Joe Wicks, bike riding and football for PE, den building (both inside and out!), geography work finding out facts about countries and capital cities – lots of fantastic ideas! Also, lots of people have been sending their photos of rainbows they've made to go in their windows – such a lovely way to send a little bit of positivity and cheer to the people around you. If you want to see what your friends are up to, or even for some great ideas, follow us on Twitter [@beech_green](#).

Chance to Shine Cricket from home

Please find some good ideas for children to use at home from the Chance to Shine Cricket team. Which can be done in the garden. The link below will just give you the weekly challenge, 'Cool Catcher Challenge,' which looks good. <https://youtu.be/1pUilVjuL0I>



The Family Tree Café – temporarily closed until further notice (we will be back and won't that coffee and cake be good!)

Photography Competition

As the Gloucestershire Young Photographer of the Year Competition is postponed, we thought we would hold our own. So same rules apply; if children would like to continue with their photography then Mrs Simmonds would still welcome entries and we will judge after Easter. Please send your entries to admin@beechgreen.gloucs.sch.uk, stating child's name and class – also giving the photograph a name. We will give a prize to the best in each Year group and will publish the best of class in this newsletter and our website. The weather is good, and there's much to photo at this time of year; so please enjoy observing nature in your garden and see what you come up with. Indoor photos welcome too.

Finally,

If you are a parent working out there on the front line or as part of the support network (thank you – we so admire what you are doing)

If you are a working parent, juggling children at home and work (we understand it's difficult and don't want you to feel under pressure)

If you are alone and struggling (please ask for help – we might be able to guide you)

If you or a loved one has Coronavirus (take care and we hope you/they get well very soon)

If you are just forced to stay at home and social distance or self-isolate, like we are told we must (then thank you for doing just that, as we are informed this will help break the chain of Covid-19 and protect our NHS and us all)

Have you noticed how beautiful the sky has looked this week, the blossom and birdsong, spring flowers and strangers offering to help and talking to one another? Stay safe and have a good week.

Contact school - admin@beechgreen.gloucs.sch.uk

Website – www.beechgreenprimary.co.uk