



# Braunston C.E. Primary School

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Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021

***Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.  
Psalm 51:10 (NIV)***

Dear Parents and Carers

Here we are at the end of week five of lockdown and I know that for many of us, we continue to face numerous challenges. Following the recent Parent Survey regarding our provision for Remote Learning, we have analysed the results, reflected as staff and have come up with some slight alterations. We received sixty-four responses and as requested, both positive and constructive comments were offered. As you will be aware, we are committed to working in partnership with you and recognise that we will achieve greater success for your child when we work together.

Firstly, thank you for the many positive wonderful comments. I shared the survey during our staff meeting and was delighted to see the impact of your kind words. Secondly, some of these changes will not suit everyone and I continue to repeat that you must access the learning provided as best as you can to suit your situation.

1. In Year 6, parents commented that the English live session was too late in the day, therefore the Year 6 team have moved their live sessions and will be in touch regarding the new times. This decision was originally made to try to avoid clashes in terms of sharing devices with siblings and we will monitor any challenges these changes may bring.
2. Three out of sixty four responses stated that children were relying on smart phones to access their learning. You do not need to do that, we have laptops that are available to borrow and have received a very generous donation of seven Chrome Books from one of our parents. Please email me if you need to borrow a device or if siblings are struggling to share a device due to timetable clashes.
3. I was alarmed by how many of our older pupils are spending over five hours each day accessing learning on the screen. This is not good for any of us and over time, can potentially affect our health. Staff will ensure that we encourage a digital detox by providing an element of learning each day, which is practical and does not rely on a screen.
4. Over one third of the responses stated that parents were concerned about their child's mental health. I understand this, as children are very sociable and thrive on connections with each other. At Braunston, we recognise the importance of having a sense of agency and belonging and know that this helps to foster



positive mental health. Staff are thinking about ways to create opportunities for children to interact with each other and will make time during the daily class story time for children to catch up.

5. From next week, Wednesday afternoons will be timetabled as a wellbeing afternoon to allow families to spend time together away from the screen. Some families may choose this time to catch up with learning; however I hope that you can all take part in the suggested activity of the week. On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February, we suggest that you go out for a long walk, play in the garden or explore the outdoors in some way. I am also going to encourage staff to limit their time on screen in support of their own digital detox and wellbeing.

6. The vast majority of the communication between school and parents is positive and proactive. In addition to contacting class teachers, many families have contacted Mrs Craig (our pastoral lead), Mrs Sawyer (our SENCo), the school office or myself and we have been able to offer help. In the Parent Survey, one parent stated that they had waited for two weeks for a pastoral call. Communication is two ways – please do not wait, call us if you need us.

7. Twice this week, we had over fifty children using our Critical Worker and Vulnerable Children Provision. Please do not send your child to school if you can keep them at home. If you are able to pick your child up earlier, then please do so.

8. Next week, teachers will be calling parents to discuss how else we may help you. These will be short conversations and you do not need to book. Please do not worry if you are unable to take the call, we will call back when it is more convenient.

Finally, having experienced Remote Learning and juggling working from home for two days this week, following the closure of one of my son's bubble, I was reminded of the differences of parenting and teaching. Please be sensible and limit the stresses in your daily life. If that means that you decide to go for a walk one day and not complete a learning activity, that is acceptable. I have spoken briefly about our 'Catch Up' provision that will help to address the gaps in learning and this will take time. In December, we had assessed the children, identified key learning gaps and had appropriate interventions ready. We will do the same again when the children return to us. Try not to worry about children falling behind. Staff are very skilled at assessment for learning and we have spent the last two years planning a curriculum that is progressive. In its simplest terms, if a key skill has not been mastered in year 2, the learning sequence means that it is covered in year 3 and then built upon.

Thank you for your kind words and your support of the school in its quest to do the best for your children.

Best wishes

Lianna Willis

Headteacher

