



BURHAM CE PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Headteacher: Miss Michelle Grima

Dear Parents

Please refer to the 2 emails sent out during the course of the day on Tuesday 5th January 2021 (below)

Also please see attached article from the TES which outlines why the approach we are taking is actually more effective than live lessons.

I will summarise a few points below:

- The article challenges the assumption that live lessons are better *'and would suggest that in most cases prerecorded lessons are at least as good as live lessons and may be even better'*
- If a pupil misses a key point in the class teacher input if this is live they cannot go back and listen again
- With live teacher recordings they can be paused/rewound and also paused to allow resources to be gathered; also revisit explanations
- *'Perhaps the biggest advantage of prerecorded lessons is accessibility. In many homes there are not suitable devices for all children to access lessons at the same time.'*

Here is the link:

https://www.tes.com/news/coronavirus-schools-online-learning-are-live-lessons-really-better-recorded-ones?fbclid=IwAR33UYDynzhNx0AArNWlgFNIOe7bh00Z_lIQujIQQRJHx-BIXO3ipQk_8A

It is also the case that if the session is live then the parent has to be in the room and monitoring the session for safeguarding reasons ie. They cannot be left alone to access the lesson

Please find below more details about how Blended Home Learning will work:

- Teachers will send work to you starting this Thursday (our return date for term 3) via a combination of email and uploads to Seesaw, our learning platform.
- Starting Monday, many Maths and English activities will be accompanied by an introduction by the class teacher – this will either be a video or audio recording, which will allow flexibility if you have more than one child and only one device. As other primary schools are doing, we are taking a blended approach and providing what is appropriate for each Year group.
- None of the work will need to be printed – activities can be completed on paper or online and all answers will be provided.
- You have the option to upload any completed activities to Seesaw, however this is not obligatory. Just a reminder, please do not upload images of your children or other family members in line with our Safe Guarding Policy.

Over the course of the term a member of staff will call your child to check in with them.

I just wanted to give you some more information:

I have spoken to local schools about their approach to Home Learning and it is a very mixed picture. One school are not doing any live lessons, another is doing some Zoom lessons in some year groups and have given children books for recording. However, this school is only allowing children to attend if both parents are key workers.

We are going to adopt their approach of giving out books for recording for those that want them, as we do not want you to have to print out lots of activities. The children can look at activities online and record in the book (although the occasional activity might need to be printed). The books will be left outside the office from Thursday for you to collect at your leisure, but please could you do this either at your usual staggered drop off time or pick-up time to avoid congestion. The children can then bring them into school after the February half term.

However, we will still be monitoring Seesaw and giving feedback as we have done previously, so if you would prefer to upload the children's work to Seesaw rather than use the book please do so.

In addition to the above emails we have agreed that prerecorded, live input, planning and resources will be send out on a daily basis so as not to overload and make it easier to manage.

Obviously we would have loved to have all the children back in at the start of term, however that has not been possible. The message delivered by the Prime Minister as you can appreciate came very late and I can categorically tell you that every Headteacher in England found out at exactly the same time as you did – we did not have prior information or warning. I can assure you we are following Government guidance and also the message is clear; it is about 'capacity and context' – primary schools all have different circumstances, so we all have different solutions, and this is acceptable to the Local Authority.

I hope this further clarifies Burham Schools current position on Blended Home learning. We have had lots of positive comments from the majority of our parents regarding the level of our communications and the measures/arrangements we have put in place.

Kind regards
Miss Grima

Cc. Mr Robert Worth – Chair of Governors