



St Benet's Catholic Primary School

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'A happy and holy place of learning
and the centre of a thriving community'

Headteacher: Mrs C Young

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs C Canham

School Business Manager: Mrs D Finley

Monday 4th September 2023

School Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to those parents who have sent emails expressing their concerns or offering support in these current circumstances. At this current stage, we do not have a timescale of when St Benet's will re-open fully to pupils and staff or what alternative accommodation will be offered. This decision will be made by the trust and Department for Education.

As a school, we have been in communication with local venues such as Ouston and Pelton Community Centres and considered outdoor learning in our local area. We have also spoken to our local MP, Kevan Jones and councillor, Alison Batey, who have offered support. The trust are still in negotiations with the Department for Education and at the current time, the guidance given to school is that we offer remote learning to our children in the interim. We are also working alongside another primary school in our trust, who are in the same predicament.

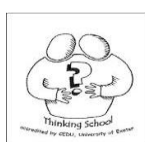
Our school completely agrees that remote learning is not a suitable form of education for our children. We are aware that children learn best when taking part in face to-face teaching so the trust are working as quickly as possible to resume this for our pupils. We also know that this must be extremely difficult for families; we appreciate that finding childcare at short notice for parents is challenging with work and other commitments.

Remote Learning Expectations

We anticipate that Remote Learning will be offered as a short-term measure only. This time, it will be a combination of some live lessons and work packs (*further information below*). As we need to prepare a remote learning platform, live lessons shall start next week and further information shall be shared with you by Friday.

Zoom Session Tomorrow

As tomorrow is officially the start of the Autumn term, we would like **to invite our children to join us in a live welcome session via Zoom at either 9am, 12pm or 3pm tomorrow. The links shall be sent out to all families tomorrow morning at 8am.** Staff are working at the trust headquarters so we will all be there to greet our children. We appreciate that this may not be possible for some children and families, however if you can join, we would love to see our children.



Summer Scrapbook and Online Activities This Week

As you are aware, we have had very little time to prepare any form of remote learning that is suitable for children aged from 3 – 11 years old, therefore some suggested activities for this week's learning are below:

- *Summer Scrapbook* – the children could design a scrapbook/leaflet/powerpoint or painting about their summer. This may include places they have visited, favourite events or new skills they have learned. Children could do this using Lego or other materials etc.
- *Times Table Rockstars* – Year 1 to 6 children have access to this programme. If anyone needs a log in for their child, please email us at teachers@stbo.bwcet.com
- *Numbots* – Reception children also have access to this programme which again can be accessed via Times Table Rockstars
- *Reading Plus* – Year 6 children can access this with their usernames and passwords handed out to them in the summer term.
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary> -BBC Bitesize is also a useful tool.

Work Packs

Staff are busy putting together some work packs for each child. These will include relevant materials linked to curriculum subjects in line with the live lessons. Such packs can be collected on Friday or if this is not possible, they can be delivered by a member of staff. We will update you in due course about the arrangements for this.

We appreciate that such update is not the news that parents were hoping for. Please be reassured that school will be sending daily updates to all parents and carers. Our children have missed out on so much learning over recent years due to the disruption during the pandemic, both academically and socially. As leaders, we feel your frustration and do not feel that this situation that the government have landed us in, is good enough! As parents, you must have lots of questions and we are planning a face to face meeting with parents and representatives from school and the trust.

Kindest regards,

Catherine Young and Claire Canham
Head teacher and Deputy Head Teacher

