

1<sup>st</sup> May 2020

Dear Families,

**Re: COVID-19 Update, 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020: Online Home Learning and Microsoft Teams. Your opinion and suggestions count!**

I hope you are all managing to keep well and have been able to stay in touch with family and friends over the last week!

### **Microsoft Teams – Video Conferencing**

Since my last letter, staff at Burton Borough have been meeting each other using the video call function on Microsoft Teams. I am very pleased to report that it is **currently going very well, with staff successfully connecting with each other and hold meetings**. I know that for me personally, being able to see the faces of my colleagues has helped tremendously during the lockdown and I am **hoping that we will be able to use this function with students soon**.

The Telford and Wrekin IT team are still working extremely hard to put all of the classes together on MS Teams. This has been a mammoth task as we have 1120 students and 150 staff who all have 50 lessons per fortnight! Usually, a task like this would take several months to set up but they have managed to work around the clock and get us to where we are in a few weeks. As ever, **thank you for your patience** – we will let you know as soon as MS Teams becomes available for students.

### **Show My Home Work – Your Thoughts!**

As you will be aware, we have been using the online platform, ShowMyHomeWork, to set online home learning for your child during lockdown. Initially, teachers were setting tasks daily but with feedback saying that it had become overwhelming, we started to set project style work weekly instead.

**From talking to my colleagues and hearing the views of some families, I think it is a good time now to fully review what we are doing. I would be grateful if you could complete the Home Learning survey using this link:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CPLZ76F>

Please let us know of any suggestions you have, what has worked well, what has not worked well, so that we can adapt our practice as necessary.

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate that **we understand that juggling your work-life, home-life and your child's schoolwork is very difficult at this time. We also understand that some families may only have one device between several family members.**

**Please reassure your child that they should just do what they can do. Follow the lessons on their timetable each day (if that is possible depending on your home situation) and do the work set for those lessons for the amount of time they would have in that lesson that day. It does not have to be the precise time the lesson would have been taking place during a usual school day, especially if your child is sharing a device with the family.**

**If your child does not finish all of the work set by their teacher, please ask them not to worry. When we return to school, we will do all we can to ensure your child catches up.**

*Continued*



If your child does not understand the work set, please contact their class teacher if the teacher has supplied you with their email address or through the school contact form on the website.

Alternatively, you can email [main.bbs@taw.org.uk](mailto:main.bbs@taw.org.uk) and the email will be forwarded to the relevant member of staff.

Do continue to send in your good news stories and let us know how your child is getting on. Small school teams and tutors will be contacting you over the coming week to see if there is anything we can help you with.

I hope you enjoy the weekend!

Best wishes,



Krissi Carter  
Principal



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