



09 February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

## Remote Provision

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. Firstly, I would like to extend my thanks to all our learners and to you as parents for your support and engagement with the remote learning over these past few weeks. Amidst difficult circumstances and by far from what we all wanted for the Spring term, we have all made huge progress with remote learning and we are so proud of every single one of our learners and all they are doing. The introduction of Google Classrooms has been met with overwhelming positivity and we are glad that this is enabling our learners to maintain structure and continuity, as well as providing valuable interaction with their peers and teachers. I would like to thank all those parents who have written to us with kind messages of support and gratitude – these are always very warmly received by our staff who are working hard to support all the children and families here at BFS.

We know there is not a one size fits all approach or an approach that suits everyone when it comes to home learning. What might be your ideal provision will be someone else's worst scenario. Our decision to organise our provision as we have done is to ensure that it is flexible and robust for all learners and supportive of all families.

We are following the national research around how best to offer our remote provision and are constantly reviewing our offer in line with this. We feel we are currently offering a good balance of live sessions, pre-recorded inputs, school community interaction opportunities and independent activities.

We are mindful that every school is approaching remote learning differently and that naturally families will compare what we are doing to others. We have had a few requests regarding why we cannot offer more live lessons as we have teachers working remotely.

We have direction from the DfE around the amount of learning we need to be providing each day however it does not stipulate that this needs to be live lessons. There has been a lot of thought and discussion into why we are not offering live lessons all day, every day and I wanted to share with you our rationale for not increasing this element of our home learning.

- Recent research has shown that it is not whether a lesson is recorded or delivered live that has the greatest impact on learning, rather it is the opportunity for independent practice and quality feedback that is important. Which is why we are offering a diet of live sessions, feedback videos, study groups and recorded inputs.
- The DfE has spent millions of pounds on Oak Academy live (recorded) lessons to use in exactly this situation to support remote provision. They are experienced teachers teaching all aspects of the curriculum that we can select to fit perfectly with our curriculum map.
- Live lessons involve a huge amount of staff time which doesn't then allow them to support children as we have been – we have prioritised welfare and support over anything else. Teachers are available all day on the live chat facility of Google Classroom. They are making welfare calls and are available via email.
- Live lessons are restrictive for families who have multiple children and all need access to devices at the same time. We have ensured all families now have access to a device but are aware that many of our families may still only have one device, shared between their family.

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- Live lessons are restrictive for families who may need to support their children and work from home at the same time. How we have set up our provision means families have flexibility over how to organise their learning around their individual home circumstances.
- We have worked closely with families to reduce the number of children requiring places in school so that we are able to allow for teachers to work remotely. This has meant we were able to increase the remote provision over the last few weeks. In addition to this each child whether learning at home or in school gets daily contact with their class teacher, keeping connectivity to school as well as personalised welfare calls from their teacher, who best knows them and can support you specifically with your child's learning.

We are unbelievably proud of all our staff and how they have embraced working remotely and getting to grips with a new way of teaching. I want to assure you that even though they are not in school teaching as we know it, they are working incredibly hard to support all our families and are on hand throughout the day whether this is through Google classroom, email or phone. They are also preparing for the wider return of children and how we can support all in this transition back into school.

We do have an open-door policy and encourage you should you have any concerns or questions to please get in contact. We to are only a phone call or email away and are always happy to answer any questions and receive feedback from you.

Best wishes



Dawn Wilks  
Executive Head



Rebecca Wood  
Head of School