

Maiden Beech Academy

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Dear Parents,

UPDATE: Maiden Beech Academy Contingency Plan

I hope you and your families are well and that you are all keeping safe. Hopefully, you had an enjoyable Easter weekend despite the restrictions that are in place.

It has been a fortnight since I last wrote to you all, and I thought an update with some key reminders would be helpful.

We are all missing the children very much and are looking forward to getting back to normal whenever that may be!

Hopefully, any questions you might have are addressed in the information below; however, **if you have a query then simply phone the school on 01460 72677 or contact us via the Parent Portal messaging system**, and we will get back to you as soon as we can. Our reception is open from **7:30 am until 4:30 pm Monday to Friday, and Portal messages are being checked throughout the day, and we are responding quickly to any messages received.**

SCHOOL WORK/HOME LEARNING

From **Monday 20th April**, teachers will start to set work online via the Pupil Portal once again. The work set is to support you as parents and to provide the children with some meaningful activities to occupy their time.

Most of the work set will reinforce learning already covered in class this year rather than introducing new concepts and ideas. Whilst it is our general expectation that your son or daughter completes the work set, **how much is completed on a daily basis is at your discretion**. We are keen that whilst children engage with the tasks provided, school work does not become a cause of further stress and worry at these unsettling times.

In order to ensure that you and the children are not overwhelmed by the amount of work that is being set, **we recommend spending no more than three or four hours a day on these activities:**

Daily Work	Weekly Work
30 minutes reading Practise spellings that have been set Practise times tables English OR Maths task 30 minutes physical activity – Joe Wicks' video at 9:00 am or daily exercise allowance	Science History (Y7 & Y8) Geography (Y7 & Y8) Humanities (Y5 & Y6) French Computing Music Art BEP



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Please note that these are suggested activities – do what you can; we don't want to put any family under any undue pressure at this difficult time.

Moving forward, **we are looking to introduce Microsoft Teams as an additional resource to deliver home learning** alongside our existing Pupil Portal. We will keep you posted on how we plan to introduce this over the next few weeks. This is an initiative that BTCT is implementing within all schools across the Trust. Using Teams alongside the existing Pupil Portal will enable us to provide more support for the children with the tasks set, as there would be the opportunity for children to communicate directly with their teachers and respond to feedback. Watch this space!

Children unable to access the Pupil Portal – hard copies of work

We now have a list of children that are unable to access work online, and we will continue to put together work packs for these families. These packs are in addressed envelopes and can be collected from the front of the main entrance on a **Friday afternoon from 12:30 – 4:30 pm**. We will endeavour to deliver any work not collected by 4:30 pm.

PHONE CALLS HOME

From Monday, tutors will also begin phoning you and your children regularly again. Because many of these calls are being made from members of staff's private numbers, they have been advised to withhold their number before calling; therefore, if you have an incoming call where the number is withheld, the chances are it is from school, so please take the call.

CHILDCARE FOR CRITICAL WORKERS

We will continue to provide essential childcare for the children of critical workers where there is no other option for the children to remain safely at home. **If you require this service, please let us know each week by Friday 4:30 pm, at the very latest, your specific requirements for the following week if known, so we can update our attendance registers.** However, as working requirements are likely to change on a daily basis, we do understand that this is not always possible, so we will adopt a flexible and bespoke approach when necessary to support you. We have plans in place to provide childcare from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm should it be required.

CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS (FSM)

BTCT will continue to provide families whose children are eligible for FSM with e-Gift vouchers to use in a nominated supermarket. **Please note the value of these vouchers will be £15 per child in line with the national FSM scheme rather than £25.**

We are also looking closely at the SSE food parcel distribution scheme to see if this is a better alternative for some families.

The next batch of e-Gift vouchers with a value of £30 per child (£15 per week for the next two weeks) will be distributed to eligible families by the middle of next week.

Any questions re: FSM provision should be directed to Mrs Rowswell, Finance Officer, using the following mobile number: **07435 869032**

Finally, in these difficult times, I would like to wish you all well; please stay safe.

Best wishes



Carl Winch
Headteacher

