



Badgerbrook Newsletter



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January 2021

Welcome to a very different Spring term at Badgerbrook.

We would like to say another huge thank you to our Badgerbrook community for adapting so well during Lockdown 3 to new ways of learning both at home and in school. Pupils, staff and parents have shown enormous amounts of determination, resilience and most importantly kindness to each other whilst we have been navigating these new ways of working. We particularly want to recognise the incredible hard work of both our parents and pupils who are continuing with their learning from home. It is no easy task remoting into lessons and continuing to stay focus, motivated and engaged on a daily basis.

Our numbers have now risen to our highest level of 178 children in school on one day this week. The national average attendance level for primary schools is 21% and ours is at 45%. We are now looking at ways to reduce the numbers in school in order to further minimise the risk of infection throughout our community. We are asking parents to keep children at home on days where possible and join our online learning classrooms. Thank you to those parents who are helping us and are reducing the days their children are in school; this means a lot to our teaching staff!

We really do understand that as the weeks go by we, as a community, will face on going and different challenges and we need to make sure we keep working together to support everyone in the best ways we can.

Well-being of all our pupils, staff and parents is our top priority as we go forward. Please click on this link for support ideas for parents and children from Leicestershire sports partnership.

<http://learningsouthleicestershiressp.org.uk/parent>.

Please do keep in touch with us and share your success stories from home too. We are stronger together #teambadgerbrook.



Great Ideas

Have you any great ideas for virtual events to enable us to bring our community together and keep fundraising for Badgerbrook. If you've got an idea to help raise funds, that support projects and purchases that benefit every pupil at the school, please email office@badgerbrook.leics.sch.uk

Thank you

Attendance:

Badgerbrook and its staff regard the regular attendance of children at school as being vital to each child's education and development. It is for this reason that non-attendances (however short or infrequent) are treated seriously. It remains the policy of the school to only sanction non-attendance during term time in exceptional circumstances.

Parents should submit a leave of absence request - including those for exceptional circumstances - in writing to the Headteacher.

Academic Year Overview:

Academic Year 2020/2021	
	Autumn Term
School Opens	Tuesday 1 st September 2020
Mid-Term Break	Monday 19 th – Friday 23 rd October 2020
School Closes	Friday 18 th December 2020
	Spring Term
School Opens	Tuesday 5 th January 2021
Mid-Term Break	Monday 15 th – Friday 19 th February 2021
School Closes	Friday 26 th March 2021
	Summer Term
School Opens	Monday 12 th April 2021
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 3 rd May 2021
Mid-Term Break	Monday 31 st May – Friday 4 th June 2021
School Closes	Friday 9 th July 2021

The above dates are agreed locally with other schools in our area and are not the same as the generic published dates on Leicestershire County Hall Website.



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February Half Term

Badgerbrook will be closed to all pupils for February half term from Monday 15th to Friday 19th February. There will be no remote learning during this week.



Free School Meals

We are now providing weekly vouchers of £15 to parents of each child who is eligible for free school meals. Leicestershire County Council will also be funding vouchers for these children for the half term holiday.

If you think your child might now be eligible for Free School Meals and you would like to receive a weekly voucher, please have a look on the Leicestershire County Council website for details of how to apply.



<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/social-care-and-supporting-families/free-school-meals>

If your child is not registered for Free School Meals and you receive any of the following benefits your child may be able to get free school meals.

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of not more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit – if you apply on or after 1st April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

COVID 19 –

Whilst on the school grounds we ask that you remember to:

- Wear a mask.
- Keep a two-metre distance from others who are not in your household.

Please stay at home and do not come onto the school grounds if you are feeling unwell, have any symptoms or are waiting for test results.

Please stick to the staggered collection and drop off times to help us ensure social distancing can be maintained during these busy times.

IN THE EVENT OF YOUR CHILD TESTING POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 PLEASE ENSURE YOU INFORM THE SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY. IF YOU GET THE RESULTS OUT OF OFFICE HOURS PLEASE EMAIL THE SCHOOL ON:

office@badgerbrook.leics.sch.uk.

Please label the e-mail - 'Positive Covid-19 Test'

You must include the following information:

- Date when symptoms started.
- Date of test and result.

Emails will be checked at regular times over the weekend and evenings.

Parenting in a Pandemic:

Click on the link below for top tips to help you parent during a pandemic. There is a free course and other links parents might find useful to support them.

<https://www.schudio.tv/courses/parenting-in-a-pandemic>



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Home Learning

We would like to thank the parents taking the time to message us with thanks and praise for the quality of our remote learning this lockdown – your positive messages give the staff a real lift in these difficult times. We are delighted that so many families are enjoying the activities at home and seeing their teachers on live lessons and video clips.

The children are doing brilliantly with uploading their work for their teachers to see – keep the work coming children, and well done for getting on so well with your activities at home! The teachers are enjoying seeing what you have been doing at home!

Our live and interactive sessions are working really well and have been a success for all year groups. We are pleased with the interactions and engagement of all the children and the teachers love being able to see and work with the children at home also.



Top Tips for Home Learning

Remote education ensures continuous learning outside the classroom. For parents and carers, remote education isn't always straightforward and there can be a number of things to consider in order for this to be successful. Our teachers have identified their top tips for home learning!

- Establish routines and expectations by following the learning timetable
- Establish times for physical activity, quiet and reflection each day at set times
- Choose a good place to learn in the home that is quiet and without distraction.
- Keep in touch with teachers through emails/phone calls
- Help pupils 'own' their learning by asking questions and encouraging a 'have a go' attitude

Etiquette of online learning.

As we continue to develop our online teaching and learning skills we need to remember to treat the online classroom as if we were physically in school. Can parents please ensure pupils are dressed appropriately (unless of course it is fancy dress Friday!) for lessons and that children are not eating snacks during live lessons.

We are also asking parents to make contact the class teachers via the class email and not the lesson chats – this facility is for the pupils.



Digital Learning

Just a reminder that if families are struggling with digital technology or Wi-Fi access at home, please get in touch with us as we may be able to help. Please contact us on office@badgerbrook.leics.sch.uk or contact your class teacher through the class email.

Thank you from far and wide for the donations of laptops to help support pupils accessing remote learning. Our tech team have worked tirelessly setting these and the spare school laptops up ready to loan to pupils to use. We are still accepting laptop donations if you have any that are unused.

It has also been widely advertised now that school remote learning platforms can also be accessed through devices such as X Boxes and Play Stations – Google will be able to assist with this further.



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Reading at Home

Last week the Oak National Academy and the National Literacy Trust announced the launch of the Virtual School Library.

This is a fantastic opportunity to get access to free e-books, every week a children's author or illustrator will provide a free eBook, exclusive videos and their top three recommended reads.

There will also be fun activities linked to the book to do at home. The first author to join the library was Jacqueline Wilson, with *The Story of Tracy Beaker*. You can read the story and watch the video to find out how Tracy Beaker got her name.

You can access the Virtual Library here: <https://library.thenational.academy/>

Look out for lots more authors and stories to enjoy every week. Happy reading!



Lateral Flow Tests

You will have seen in the media from Monday 25th January primary schools have been provided with testing kits for staff to carry out lateral flow self-tests (LFDs) at home before they come into work. The purpose of this programme is to identify more of the 1 in 3 people who are likely to have coronavirus but have no symptoms. By identifying these individuals, it reduces the risk of them spreading the infection in schools. We have organised our testing schedule which began this week, Staff working will be testing themselves twice a week. They must report their test results to NHS Test and Trace and also report them to school; we have to keep a register of all the tests carried out and the results, as well as continuing to do our day jobs of educating the children.

The testing is not mandatory, although staff are encouraged to take part in order to improve the chances of minimising the spread of infection. This testing will potentially mean we will have more staff self-isolating, if they test positive, and this will undoubtedly have a knock-on effect for keeping bubbles open. We will do our best to keep bubbles open by using the second member of staff for that bubble wherever possible. Whilst it is important that we all do our bit to help combat this virus, it does pose yet more strains on our staffing resources if members of staff are found to be positive through these LFDs. We will be following all the guidance provided by PHE and the NHS for this programme. At this stage there is no testing of children in primary schools, only staff.



Agents of Hope Assemblies

Andrew Moffat, who writes all our 'No Outsiders' work, has recorded 5 assemblies a week about hope. They can be found on the Excelsior Multi Academy Trust website on the PD at Excelsior tab – Agents of Hope Lockdown Assemblies. They are really positive stories of hope for children to watch.

<https://www.excelsiormat.org/pd-at-excelsior/agents-of-hope-assemblies>



Christmas Jumper Day

The staff and pupils enjoyed wearing their Christmas jumpers back in December. Together we raised £250.97.

Well done everyone



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A big shout out to....

To all the Badgerbrook community both home and school during these difficult weeks.

If you have a shout out please email the school office, so we can include this in our next newsletter.

Keep going everyone.

Safeguarding

If you have any concerns about the welfare of any child in our school, or you wish to discuss aspects of safeguarding, please speak to our Designated Safeguarding Lead Ms A Meyrick or one of our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads, Mrs C Price, Mrs V Toon & Mrs C Webb.

Online Safety

Computers are everywhere. No matter where we go, there is no escaping their reach. Our children are growing up in a world where these devices are common in everyday lives. Unlike many adults, children are not fazed by computers and smart devices and accept them as part of their way of life. At Badgerbrook, we acknowledge that computers, devices and of course the internet are all amazing technologies both now and for the future. However, we are aware of the necessity to keep our children safe. We would like to make you aware of CEOP, which is the government's Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre. If you wish to report some inappropriate content or behaviour online follow the directions on their pages.

We would also like to introduce you to a new industry-backed website for parents, which aims to provide a good understanding of issues affecting children today. Take a look here: www.internetmatters.org.



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