

6th October 2020

Dear Parent/Carers,

The ongoing national health crisis means we are currently operating in uncertain and difficult times. Since our full re-opening in September all schools are adjusting to the 'new normal' and developing systems and processes to operate within government educational guidelines.

Last week we sent you a letter, forwarded from the London Borough of Bromley, to all parents/carers. This outlined the difficulty we all face in distinguishing between potential COVID symptoms and more common winter illnesses. We need to work together with all families to make decisions regarding times when it may be necessary to insist that students are self-isolating, and therefore required to work remotely.

As always, we are fully committed to the academic progress and social development of all our students. We have developed a contingency plan, which outlines actions required by staff, students and parents/carers to ensure that students are not negatively affected by such decisions, and can continue to fully access the curriculum and emotional support available, as if they were attending school.

Moving forward, at BBA Orpington, we will be using a learning platform called 'Showbie' with Green class continuing to use 'Class Dojo'. Staff have been fully trained in the use of these platforms and as we move forward, teachers will be uploading lessons for students working remotely. This will mean students returning from any period of sickness or self-isolation will not be unfairly disadvantaged by their absence.

Over the next two weeks all students will be trained to access 'Showbie' or Class Dojo (Green class) in school and be allocated unique log in details. We have already undertaken an audit of all students this term to ensure they have the capacity to access on line learning at home. Those students requiring support will receive it if they are having to isolate.

It is clear we will also require your support in order for this to be successful and, as parents/carers, in due course, you will also be sent log in details for the platform your child is using. Students will be expected to complete at least 3 lessons per day on the platform and then downloaded to their teacher. By having access you will be able to see what work has been set and if your child has completed it. Additionally you will be able to see feedback, on completed work, from the class teacher.

If your child is unwell, and therefore unable to work, please notify the school, as soon as possible, in order for registers to be marked appropriately.

Please be assured that we will not take any decision to request a self -isolation period lightly. If you are able to access a COVID test within that period, and it is negative, your child will be welcome to return to school. Equally, despite these difficult times and potential staffing



issues, we will do our utmost to remain open at all times. Closing classes for specific children or full closure would be an absolute last resort.

As always we are grateful for your support and cooperation at this time. We are all doing our best to cope with the constant changes in guidance and expectations. I would encourage you to continue to monitor our website for any updates.

www.bromleybeaconacademy.org.uk

Please do not hesitate to contact us in school if you have any questions regarding this letter. We will support in any way we can.

With very best wishes,

Helena Hamilton
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