

Boughton-under-Blean & Dunkirk Methodist Primary School



Forgiveness Friendship Trust Justice Perseverance
Communication Independence Aspiration Engagement

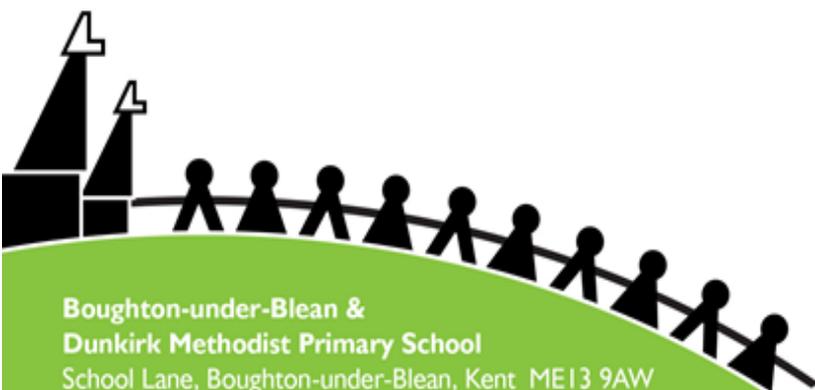
14th January 2021

Dear Parents

During the last lockdown we could all look outside and admire nature, listen to the bird song and pay particular attention to the gardens blooming and so on. During this lockdown we can look outside and see the direction the rain drops are travelling - I can confirm that the answer is downwards! This makes the situation a lot worse than before for parents especially with gardens being out of action and it can be a challenge to muster enthusiasm for a cold and wet walk. Perhaps the weather is one reason why it feels harder this time but perhaps it's because we've been here before and perhaps we all realise that the children's education is being affected again despite all our best efforts. However maybe this is so difficult because we are still in the unknown in terms of when it will end, what our lives will look like once we come to this period and what happens next. Of course every adult is affected in a different way, I see that with the staff, but I suppose all of us continue to make the best of things. I hope that you have all been able to find a way to cope and to find interests to relieve the burden of working from home, home schooling and parenting frustrated or bored children. Being a school our main priority is always the children but it is in our nature to care about parents and wider families as well as the community as a whole. We could call that Methodism or we could say it's simply being good people. With that in mind, all of us here wish you well.

In relation to home learning I have said that we are always looking to improve and evolve what we are doing. However I simply do not think it is possible to maintain our current remote learning provision, manage the children we have in school and have teachers conduct live lessons. Also technology could be an issue for a number of reasons, both in school and at home. We have now run out of devices due to lending some out to families and having around about 50 children in school each day, many of who are also accessing the home learning on school devices which obviously cannot be shared. However from next week each teacher will be running two live sessions a week.

These will last for 30 minutes and will be a chance for the children to chat to their teacher and class mates. The teachers are busy organising these at the moment and they will contain some structure



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rather than just being a chaotic coming together. These sessions will not replace the home learning being set and although we think it will be good for the children to see the teacher, as I know many of you will agree, they are of course optional. The timetable is below and those of you with more than one child in school will see that no two classes will be online at the same time. We have mainly chosen the afternoons as we thought that would benefit those parents working from home.

	11.30am-12pm	1-1.30pm	1.45-2.15pm	2.30-3pm
Monday	Year 6	Year 1	Reception	Year 4
Tuesday		Year 2	Year 5 (Mrs Cottenden)	Year 3
Wednesday		Year 6	Reception	
Thursday		Year 1		Year 4
Friday		Year 2	Year 5 (Mrs Blunt)	Year 3

There are some basic rules and hints that we would like you to talk to your children about in relation to these live sessions. Safety is a big concern of course and the sessions will be recorded for these purposes.

- *Please ensure that your child is wearing suitable clothing
- *Please ensure that your child participates in the meeting from an appropriate area in the house, for example, not in bedrooms or bathrooms
- *The same expectations for behaviour apply for online sessions as normal school
- *All sessions will be recorded for safeguarding purposes. These will not be shared

Once the teacher has finished their session we believe they will not be able to end the call so we will be relying on the children and yourselves to come out of the meeting at home otherwise the children could be left unsupervised.

We all hope these sessions are helpful to the children even in the smallest way.

Yours sincerely

Mr S J Way

Dear Children

Good morning children, I hope you are all keeping well. There has been lots of examples of great work being sent to your teachers and they have told me on how they are enjoying receiving your messages. Next week there will be live sessions with your teacher and classmates and of course I will be expecting your best behaviour on these. There is a guide attached to this email to help you remember what you should do to make these sessions as enjoyable as possible for everyone. The teachers are looking forward to seeing you all.

On Monday I set you a challenge to send me a joke and I have received a few. Some made me laugh, some made me smile and one or two made me scratch my head but to all of you that have sent in a joke I would like say a big THANK YOU. I have put them all together and have emailed them to your parents. I hope you enjoy them.

Probably like the adults that are looking after you I have realised that the more time you spend at home the harder it is to be tolerant of those around you. We all need to be aware of the importance of forgiveness and that there shouldn't be a limit to how many times we forgive someone. This was discussed in the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant and I have sent a recording of me telling this story to your teachers so they can send it to you through Google Classroom. You may have already watched it. Hopefully it will help all of us remember that forgiveness is important every single time, especially if you are trapped in doors with your brother or sister! Or maybe you could listen to the story and retell it to someone in your house. As with all the bible stories I tell you when we come together for collective worship, it is important to think what we can learn from them to make us better people.

Take care everyone, thanks again for the jokes and look out for another task from me at the beginning of next week.

Mr Way