

# De Beauvoir Primary School

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Headteacher: Rebecca Mackenzie



Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear parents and carers,

## RE Coronavirus update

I'm sure you are aware of the outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19) and the increase in the number of confirmed cases in the UK, especially in London. As you will be aware, the government and Public Health England are regularly updating the public about the ways they are dealing with COVID-19 and measures they are putting in place. In his recent announcement, Prime Minister Boris Johnson has not ruled out the option of closing schools as a way of helping to contain the spread of the virus. We are taking advice from Hackney Learning Trust regarding school closures. If we are required to close the school, we will take the necessary steps to ensure that you are informed of the closure and to try and limit the effect on pupils' education.

We have already taken the following steps:

- Assemblies are now held in classes, not as a whole school;
- We have tissues, soap and paper hand towels in every classroom and are ensuring that all pupils wash their hands regularly;
- Cleaning has increased in communal areas, with a particular focus on door handles, chair tops and light switches;
- We have reduced numbers in the dining hall during lunch sittings;
- We have cancelled all trips from tomorrow until further notice. We will consider whether it is feasible for any of the cancelled trips to be re-scheduled. Where this is not possible we will do our best to arrange refunds.

As we remain open we welcome any pupil, who is currently fit and well, into school and we will continue to implement the relevant advice issued by the DfE and PHE.

## Health Advice

We do not currently have any confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the school and we remain open as per guidance, with the risk to students and staff classed as low. Hygiene is key to managing the risk. Our toilets are checked several times a day to ensure that there is adequate soap available for children. The daily cleaning routine in the school ensures that high contact areas are disinfected regularly. In addition, we would highlight the Government guidance issued this week which is clear that students must not come into school for 14 days from the point at which they first show any sign of one or more of the following symptoms:

- a) Fever
- b) Dry cough
- c) Shortness of breath

We are notifying parents immediately if we notice that pupils have any of these symptoms, no matter how minor, and apologise if this means that you are requested to collect your child from school.

## Possibility of School Closure

We aim to remain open unless directed to close. If we do have to close the school, you will be informed via text and we will let you know how long we expect the closure to last. Please make sure that we have your most up-to-date contact details so that you can receive any information we send out regarding a closure. If you need to provide us with new details, please contact the school office on 0207 254 2517. In the event of closure, we will place regular updates on our website ([www.debeauvoir.hackney.sch.uk](http://www.debeauvoir.hackney.sch.uk))

and on Twitter (@DeBeauvoirSch). If you need to contact the school or your child's teacher for any reason, you can do so using the school admin account ([admin@debeauvoir.hackney.sch.uk](mailto:admin@debeauvoir.hackney.sch.uk)).

We have prepared details of activities which pupils should complete at home if the school has to close. These are attached to this letter. If you are unable to access the internet at home, please let us know and we can make alternative arrangements for your child.

## Home Learning

It is important that we work together as a community at this time. We are putting measures in place to support the children in their learning for those who are self-isolating under advice from the government. We want to ensure that children have the best opportunity to continue their learning as much as possible. To help parents (and pupils) know how best to support their children at home, we have collated some ideas/activities that you can do with your children.

## Twinkl at Home

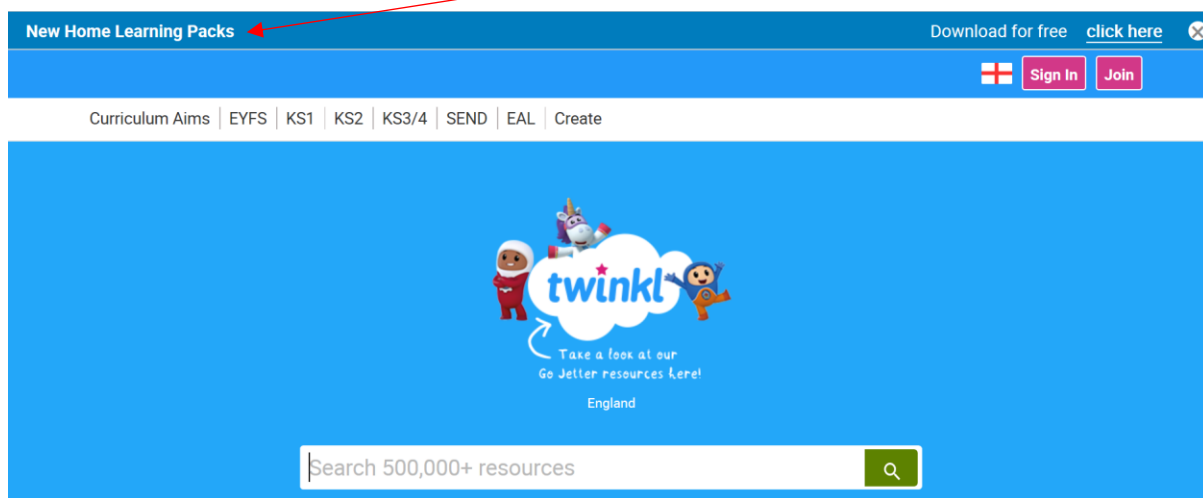
Twinkl, an online resource provider for primary schools, have uploaded lots of engaging activities to do with your children linked to the National Curriculum. These are free of charge and easy to access.

To access:

1-Go to this website:



2-Click the New Home Learning Packs:



3- Select the correct year group resource pack:



4-Click 'Download Now' and follow the next steps



**In addition to the Twinkl resources, we would like the children to spend time:**

- 1- Reading for 20-30 minutes a day, at least, using their levelled book and free reader books
- 2- If in Y5 and Y6, use Reading Plus daily for 20-30 minutes
- 3- Use Timestable Rockstars daily
- 4- Practise year group spellings
- 5- Practise handwriting, using cursive script
- 6- If in Y6, complete the SATs revision booklet

**In addition to the above work being set, you could:**

- Share a story/write a book review/write a character description e.g. for a Top Trumps Card
- Read some opening chapters from the Love Reading 4 Kids website
- Write a story, poem or play
- Make puppets and put on a play
- Play a board game, dig out old favourites- you could even design a new one for a target audience!
- Paint a picture and label it/write about it / create a poem
- Blackout poems – <https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/blog-posts/johndepasquale/blackout-poetry>
- Look, say, cover, write, check spellings
- Create a poster about washing hands/hygiene about Coronavirus
- Make an Easter Egg Hunt with clues in your estate/garden
- Make Mother's Day cards, poems
- Research 'project'/poster on a topic that's been covered in school recently, e.g. the Egyptians, a famous author, an inspirational person etc. This could be in the form of a poster, leaflet, booklet or a PowerPoint presentation etc.
- Have a good declutter/sort-out of your toys! Which toys or books do you no longer use? Write a review of your favourite with a target audience!
- Bake! Bake your favourite recipe and write up the recipe so as to create a class book of favourite recipes when you return to school.
- Junk modelling – why not upcycle some waste materials in order to make something new?

**Useful websites are:**

- Oxford Owl (KS1) <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk>
- Teach your monster to read (Reception- Y2) <https://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com/>
- ICT Runway (Y1) <https://www.ictgames.com/mobilePage/writingRunway/index.html>
- BBC Bitesize (Reception-Y6) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize> British Library (Reception -Y6) <https://www.bl.uk/>
- WordMania (An app for KS2)
- Phonics Play (Reception – Year 2) <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>
- ICTGames (Reception - Y6) <http://www.ictgames.com/>
- Lovereading4kids (Reception-Y6) <https://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk/>
- Change for Life website (Reception-Y6) <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life>

## Mathematics

Activities you could do with your child:

- Playing games, especially card games, dice games, dominoes or games involving counting in any form, such as Yahtzee, Monopoly, Ludo, Snakes and Ladders.
- In addition, games that support memory, such as memory matching games (<https://www.education.com/worksheets/memory-games/>) or 'I went to the shops and I bought...' (<https://www.teachingideas.co.uk/memory-time-fillers/i-went-to-the-shops...>) can help to develop children's retention skills.
- For children in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2, practise making and recalling pairs of numbers that make a given total, such as all the pairs of numbers that make 10, 8, 5 etc.

**For children in Years 2 to 6, practise times tables.**

Year 2: 2, 5 and 10 times tables Year 3: 3, 4 and 8 times tables Years 4 to 6: All tables up to  $12 \times 12$

## Useful Websites

- [www.mathplayground.com](http://www.mathplayground.com) (Years 2 to 6)
- Especially the Number Puzzles and Brain Workouts sections. Alternatively, select from the grades at the top of the page (Grade 1 = Year 2, Grade 2 = Year 3, etc).
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/numberblocks> (EYFS and Year 1): Videos to develop understanding of numbers and how they fit together.
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zjxhfg8> (Years 1 and 2): Short videos and activities covering the maths curriculum for KS1.
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z826n39> (Years 3 to 6): Short videos and activities covering the maths curriculum for KS2.

## Science

If school is closed but your child does not need to self-isolate you may consider ....

- Take a walk in nature. Make a collection of things you find. Once home, display them and see if you can identify them. Nature Detectives has some great 'spotter sheets' which might help.
- Plant some vegetables to grow at home. How can you keep them healthy? Once grown, can you use them in your cooking? Easy ones to grow for younger children are lettuce varieties, cress, radish or basil and mint herbs.
- Have a family sunflower competition. Who can keep their plant healthy and grow the tallest sunflower? Keep a diary of how much it grows each day.

## Other activities you could do with your child

- Make a marble run. How long can you keep the marble moving for?
  - Take a 'Science Selfie'. Take a photograph of themselves with something science related in the image. Print off the photograph and complete the caption 'This is science because...' Make a collection of 'Science Selfies' to show how science is all around us.
  - With an adult for guidance, experiment with cooking and food preparation. Make cakes and discuss what they notice at each stage of the recipe. Try this experiment to see how oven temperature affects cake mix: Make some cake mixture and place in 15 separate muffin cases. Put all the muffins in the oven then after every minute remove one from the oven until all 15 have been removed. Which is the best cake? Why? What do you notice? Mix up the cake order and see if you can put them back in the correct order.
  - Try making some healthier snacks. Try super-seed energy balls, homemade granola, hummus with veg sticks. Explore online for some great ideas.
  - Make a den, inside or out. Explain what materials you used and why your den is good?
  - Research a famous scientist. What did they discover? How is their idea used today?
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## Physical Education

Activities you could do with your child.

If school is closed but your child does not need to self-isolate you may consider ....

Some sort of physical activity. The Chief Medical Officers guidelines for young people is to be active for at least **60 minutes a day**. Examples of moderate intensity activities include, walking, playing outside in a park, riding a scooter, cycling, ball games etc. Reduce the time spent sitting or lying down and break up long periods of not moving with some activity. Aim to spread activity throughout the day. All activities should make you breathe faster and feel warmer, above all make it fun and something the children enjoy.

## Other activities you could do with your child

Physical activity ideas from <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/activities>

## Useful websites

- <https://plprimarystars.com/for-families> (activities for KS1 and KS2 children)
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/superheroes> (activities for Ks1 and Ks2 children)
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/physical-education-ks1-ks2-lets-get-active/z72yjhv> (Ks1 and Ks2)
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/ks2-physical-education/zj2n92p> (Ks2)

We are proud of the progress the children have made so far this year at De Beauvoir and the teachers have worked tirelessly to provide the best education to your children. In the event of a full school closure, we advise using the resources and ideas above to keep learning happening as much as possible.

If you have any queries about anything in this letter, please don't hesitate to contact us,

Yours sincerely,

Ms Mackenzie

Mr Bignall

Ms Rader

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