

3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I would just like to start with saying a huge thank you to everyone at home that has supported the children in accessing daily work and the live sessions. We have been delighted with the engagement across Year 2. In addition, thank you for your positive feedback and suggestions as we are always looking for ways to improve and develop our home learning provision. It is something that is new to everyone so I hope I can reassure you with some more information as we now know that the home learning will be continuing longer than we had first expected.

**Daily Live Sessions and Feedback**

Children have been engaging very well with our live sessions. We are always reviewing how we can make these more valuable for the children and therefore we currently are combining feedback and review of the lesson set in Google Classroom, along with opportunities for extending learning beyond the lessons set. Children are now more confident in using the chat function and mute function to contribute to sessions which supports us in being able to get the most out of every minute that we have with them. The meet link will only be visible from a few minutes before the session is due to begin and a new meet link is created every time, in line with our risk assessment.

**Change to Live Sessions Timetable**

Time	Subject, selected level (A/B or C) and class
10.00 - 10.20	Maths A and B 2 Cedar
10.25 - 10.45	Maths C 2 Cedar
10.50 – 11.10	Maths A and B 2 Holly
11.10 - 11.30	Maths C 2 Holly
11.35 - 11.55	Maths A and B 2 Beech
11.40 - 11.55	Maths C 2 Beech
1.50 - 2.10	English all levels 2 Cedar
2.15 - 2.35	English all levels 2 Holly
2.40 – 3.00	English all levels 2 Beech

Teachers are keeping track of which children attend the live sessions so we can monitor their learning; it is also a great way for children to have structure in the day and see their classmates learning alongside them. We understand that with varying commitments at home, and with some siblings also learning online, sometimes children may not be able to attend a live session.

Due to changes in school, each teacher will be leading the school bubble on a weekly rota. Therefore, the live sessions will be lead by other Year 2 teachers during this time and supported by a teaching assistant. The class teacher will, however, continue to plan, set and monitor daily learning, engage with Google Classroom and feedback on work that is turned in.

In response to feedback and teachers live sessions now being supported by teaching assistants rather than other teachers, we have been able to amend our live sessions timetable. This will mean all maths live sessions will now take place in the morning and each session will last for 20 minutes rather than the current 15 minutes. We have

tried to keep most live session times as similar as possible to their current timings to minimise any disruption to your day.

There will now be one maths live session for children completing A/B work and one maths live session for children completing C work. As before, English will be a whole class live session for children completing all levels. We really appreciate your flexibility and understanding in adapting to these changes.

The new live session timetable will begin **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February**.

### **Daily Work Uploaded**

We are loading the 3 focused lessons for maths, English and a foundation subject at **8pm** each evening for the following day to aide parents/carers who wish to prepare for the next day's learning. We recommend that the children still only access the lessons on the day they are scheduled for and not before. Teachers are still reviewing previous learning and may still need to make slight adjustments to slides or tasks in the morning but this will be completed by 8:30am.

Here are the tasks that are loaded each day and where they can be found:

- A daily check in on a Google form (found in **classwork**)
- Maths lesson slides along with differentiated tasks (found in **classwork**)
- English lesson slides along with differentiated tasks (found in **classwork**)
- Foundation lesson slides with differentiated tasks (found in **classwork**)

### **Daily Check-In**

This form has been really valuable for teachers as it provides an opportunity for your child to express their feelings on each particular day. Year 2 teachers are viewing the forms daily and we may send an email to follow up if the child has said that they feel worried or unhappy to see if there is anything we can do to help.

### **Marking and Feedback**

Once work has been 'turned in' and an image/document uploaded, teachers will 'return' work to confirm that they have seen it. Work may have written comments or voice notes. If you download the Google Classroom app, you can receive a notification when a teacher has commented on the work. If you do not have the app, you need to open the work back up from the classroom in order to see the comments. You can also add comments, which is a quick and easy way to communicate with the class teacher about the work, rather than using email.

### **Overall Expectations**

We want to reassure you that every day is different for children with regards to their motivation and attitude to learn. We are working hard to adapt plans, use videos, apps and modelling to help children to access the lessons and keep them engaged. The National Curriculum is challenging and we have been working with families to provide alternative lessons where particular needs have been identified. We only ask that you complete as much as you can considering your own individual circumstances - we do not want children, or families, to feel overwhelmed about completing work. Here are some tips to help:

- Prioritise the maths and English task each day.
- Set time limits so children do not feel a task is never ending. In class we normally aim for approximately 20 to 30 minutes to be spent on the main task for the lesson. If children do not finish, then that is fine. Every child works at a different pace and ability - some days may be more productive than others.
- If children are finding some tasks overwhelming then take a break. In class we always say 'quality over quantity' so in a writing task, for example, one paragraph instead of a whole completed story is more than sufficient if the child has tried their best and engaged with the session.
- Attend as many live sessions as possible, even if work is not completed in time. Children will benefit from seeing their peers and discussing the session with their teacher: this could even give them the encouragement they need to complete work if it is unfinished.

- If families are finding a particular day very difficult and children are becoming withdrawn, then please take a break from the usual structure. Use something else to ensure a little bit of learning happens each day such as Times Table Rockstars, BBC Bitesize, Lexia (for those children with licenses), Oak National Academy lessons or some independent reading.

Finally, I would like to extend a further thank you for the encouraging emails, supportive words and patience parents and carers have shared with us over the last few weeks. We are trying our very best to help everyone and, most importantly, your children in these difficult circumstances.

Please contact us if you have any further questions. [Year2@branfil.havering.sch.uk](mailto:Year2@branfil.havering.sch.uk)

Kind regards,

**Miss Morriss, Year 2 Leader**