

BRONTË HOUSE SCHOOL

brontehouse.co.uk

Dear Parents

I do hope that this letter finds you well and that you are all managing to remain safe and well at home in these unique times.

Further to the information sent last week regarding the new Seesaw learning platform, I am writing to confirm some arrangements regarding the roll-out process to parents that will commence tomorrow.

Parents will receive an email on Thursday morning before 12 noon, from Form teachers, detailing their child's unique home learning code, along with instructions for how to log-on and complete a number of orientation activities. If any 'teething-problems' are experienced, please email Form teachers who will be ready to assist and respond to queries.

Beginning on Monday 20th April, interactive lessons will commence on-line through the Seesaw platform. Initially, for the first few days, whilst children become used to navigating the technology, this will be limited to maths and English, though staff will ensure that additional material is supplied for those who may want a full programme from day 1. By Wednesday, and for the remainder of the week, a third lesson will be introduced and from Monday 27th April, a full 4-lesson day will be in operation.

Next week's timetable will be available to view when your child logs in and the full timetable will then be published in your child's Seesaw account on Monday 27th April.

All parents will receive a phone call from their child's Form teacher on either Monday or Tuesday next week, to assess their initial experience of using Seesaw; answer any questions and provide support. They will also ask to speak to children so that they have had contact with everyone in their class.

Please remember that children will be required to register by 10am each day and indicate how they are feeling in order that those who may require a little more pastoral support receive it promptly. Any concerns arising from this activity will be investigated by Form teachers and may result in a phone call home, if this is deemed necessary. Mrs Riley will continue to make regular phone calls to those children that she supports in school and parents should feel able to contact form teachers at any point if they are at all concerned about their child's wellbeing. The email address pastoralcare@brontehouse.co.uk may also be used for urgent issues requiring the intervention of a member of senior staff.

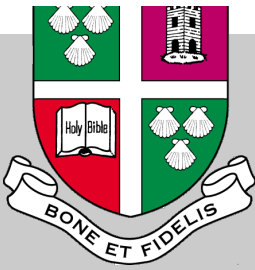
The lessons within Seesaw are not prescribed to particular times; they will be made available by 8:00am each morning and may be completed in any order. Teachers are including a good range of teaching and follow-up activities that blend on and off-screen time in order to assist with sharing devices in each household. I can also confirm that no printing is required to complete activities. It is

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I am Grovian.



Woodhouse Grove School is part of the Methodist Independent Schools Trust.
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important to note that there will not be a consequence to tasks not being submitted. If there appears to be a lack of engagement from a child, staff will make contact with parents and the child and assess what support is required in order to get back on-track. We are aiming to provide a positive learning experience for the children but we are mindful that many parents are also trying to work from home and we do not want to cause additional stress or pressure.

Staff are available to respond to submitted work or requests for assistance between the 'live hours' of 9:30-11:30am and 1:00pm – 3:00pm. Outside of these times are 'quiet hours' when staff are planning, marking and assessing. Please do get in touch but be aware that the response may not be as immediate. As you can imagine, staff have been on a very steep learning curve during the Easter holidays. Planning and teaching materials have all required much adaptation to ensure their suitability for Seesaw and, whilst we will become more adept at this, it is taking longer than usual to prepare lessons.

Housepoints will continue to be awarded by staff for work submitted and home reading. As part of each Monday morning's check-in activity, these will be collected and totalled in order to continue with the award of certificates. A 'Good Work' winner from each class will also be awarded each week and included in Seesaw as a video by form teachers as well as being posted on the School Facebook site in order to share congratulations within the whole school community.

Once the core curriculum is successfully rolled out, we will also begin to provide some extra-curricular materials that children may enjoy taking part in. More information on this to follow in due course.

For the children of key workers who are joining us in school next week, we have ipads available with the Seesaw app installed and staff on-hand to support learning. Please complete the orientation activities at home with your child; we will have a copy of their learner code ready for them to use when they are in school. Please can all children bring with them a pair of headphones to plug into their ipad for use in lessons.

I hope that the children enjoy using Seesaw and that it proves an exciting addition to our curriculum, bringing a new dimension to remote learning. Please expect the learner code to be sent tomorrow before 12 noon, log-in and encourage children to complete the familiarisation tasks.

With very best wishes,

Sarah Chatterton
Head, Brontë House

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