

# BRONTË HOUSE SCHOOL

brontehouse.co.uk

5<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents

I do hope that this letter finds your family safe and well.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the support provided to children with remote learning arrangements. We are acutely aware of the pressures that the current lockdown is creating in many households and of the difficulties that arise when balancing work commitments with children's needs.

The purpose of writing to you is to provide some feedback on last week's remote learning survey and to outline the amendments to the current provision that will take effect from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February. We are delighted to share that 87% of parents across the School either agreed or strongly agreed with the statement that they were pleased with the current arrangements; this figure was considerably higher in some Year Groups.

We have spent considerable time analysing the results in order to identify common themes in the feedback and plan our provision for the coming weeks. We are committed to continually reviewing and improving our offering to ensure that we meet the needs of families to the very best of our ability.

In response to parental feedback, we are moving away from a 'one size fits all' approach to remote learning and have made adjustments to the provision in individual Year Groups to ensure that the provision remains age appropriate to the needs of the children. Whilst the specifics of each year group's timetable will be posted on Seesaw at 3pm this afternoon, the below will provide parents with a response to some of the most frequently occurring comments from the survey:

***'The morning check-in and individual catch-ups were very beneficial last lockdown'.***

During the last lockdown, this was essential as all lessons were pre-recorded. Now that teachers are spending two hours every day with the children via Zoom, it is more apparent if intervention is required. From next week, as well as a verbal check-in at the start of each day, parents and children will be asked to send the member of staff a private message via Zoom if they would like to talk or require support with any aspect of their wellbeing or academic work. We are in regular contact with numerous families by telephone and email; if you feel this would be beneficial to your child, we are only too happy to help.

***'I think the children would benefit hugely from having a live workout session'.***

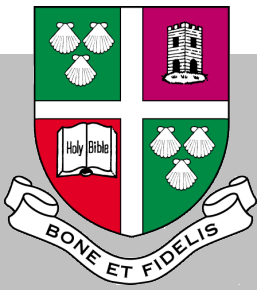
From Monday, all children in Years 1-6 will receive two live PE lessons per week through Zoom. With the constraints of space and equipment and the unreliability of the weather, this will focus on a 20- minute HIIT session, as well as the introduction of a skill for the children to go away, practice and feedback to staff. The PE staff have all sorts of fitness games planned and are excited to share these with the children next week.

Apperley Bridge, West Yorkshire, BD10 0PQ  
Tel: 0113 2502 811 enquiries@brontehouse.co.uk

*I am Grovian.*



Woodhouse Grove School is part of the Methodist Independent Schools Trust.  
Registered Office: Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London, NW15JR.  
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## ***'The amount of work each day is too much. We just can't get through it all'.***

We are providing four lessons each day for the children, with English and maths remaining the priority. For some children, particularly our youngest pupils, two additional tasks every day via Seesaw is proving a huge undertaking. Please do not allow learning activities to create unnecessary stress in your household. If you feel that one additional Seesaw task each day is a more appropriate volume of work for your child, please add a note onto the activity so that staff are aware. Parents should feel reassured that staff will be fully supportive of their decision.

## ***'The Zoom lessons are great. Can we have an additional one in the afternoon?'***

Whilst we have received some fantastic feedback about the inclusion of live teaching, over 95% of parents cited the importance of being able to access Seesaw tasks at a time that is convenient to them. For example, we know that many children prefer to complete Seesaw activities from early morning so that learning is finished by early afternoon. In the same way, parents of younger children fit the activities around their working day. The inclusion of more Zoom sessions removes this flexibility and needs to be considered extremely carefully. Implementing a full timetable of Zoom lessons would be less-onerous for staff but we haven't pursued this option further as we do not feel it is in the best interests of families or our children's wellbeing. We believe that a blended learning approach, including elements of live teaching with pre-recorded material, provides children with the right balance of tuition. The needs of individual families are incredibly wide-ranging and we are doing our very best to provide an online curriculum that best supports the needs of all of our learners.

The 'tweaks' that have been made to the provision from next week will afford all children more 'live' contact with staff, through form periods to support learning and well-being and, for our oldest children, an additional Zoom in an academic subject. Please see your child's timetable on Seesaw later this afternoon for specific details.

Please note that all Zoom lesson links will, from now on, be pasted into 'Activities', rather than 'Announcements' on the Seesaw platform. This is to allow the children to move between the lesson link and the follow-up activity with greater ease.

## ***'I'm concerned about the amount of screen time that my child has each day'.***

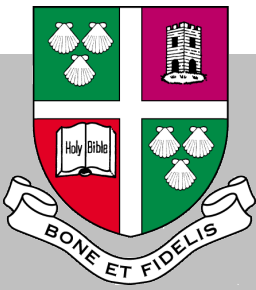
This concern is shared by staff who are trying their best to ensure opportunities for work away from the screen are included in Seesaw lessons, though this remains a huge challenge when working in this way. As previously stated, if your child needs a break or you feel they have completed as much as they are able, please add a note to the screen and let staff know.

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All survey comments have been shared with Year Group staff so that they have an awareness of feedback relating to the children they are teaching. If you have a concern that relates specifically to your child, please contact your child's form teacher to discuss this.

This fifth week of remote learning feels to have been a tough one. The children are, inevitably, tiring and looking forward to a much-needed break. Hopefully, next week's 'new diet' of activities will ignite a little excitement before batteries are re-charged over half term.

We remain optimistic that we will be able to welcome children back to school from the Prime Minister's suggested date of 8<sup>th</sup> March; though if this will comprise a full re-opening or limited year groups remains to be seen. We will update you with further information in due course.

With very best wishes for the final week,

Sarah Chatterton

Head, Brontë House

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