



Beeston Primary School

Town Street, Leeds, LS11 8PN

“Promoting a love of learning”



7th January, 2021

Microsoft Teams for Education

Dear Parents/ Carers,

From Monday 11th January those with children in **Years 1-6** will notice a big difference to the support our brilliant teaching team will offer to both you and our children, with the launch of Microsoft Teams for Education.

Our Remote Learning offer is about to step up a gear!

What difference will Microsoft Teams make?

- The platform will provide a single point of access for all lessons and resources, allowing teachers to host recorded lessons which are bespoke and personal to the needs of the children at Beeston Primary School. Teachers will be empowered to replicate much more of what they do so well in the classroom to facilitate learning.
- Feedback will be more immediate, regular and specific. There will be times when this will be an acknowledgement of the work submitted and encouragement to keep up the hard work; other times there will be more precise comments with guidance to correct mistakes or attempt an additional challenge to deepen learning. In line with our Growth Mindset approach, pupils at Beeston Primary School are used to returning to a piece of work to make improvements and it helps them to make progress.
- Work will be available for the next day by 6.00pm so that any parents who wish to do so, can take time to become familiar with what tasks have been set for the following day.
- Teachers can set interactive quizzes to help assess learning and give the children immediate answers to their responses.
- In the future, we will have the option to be able to set up small 'live' group sessions where pupils and teaching staff can chat and focus on well-being or share a book together.

Tapestry in Early Years Foundation Stage: Nursery and Reception

- Nursery and Reception have their own online platform and home learning will continue to be shared on Tapestry.
- Staff have been working hard to ensure that more of the features are used and activities and other messages will be shared with parents through the memos section.
- Even though the children can't yet read themselves, feedback is also important and each activity you share will be responded to with either a short message of encouragement or some suggestions for next steps.
- Like the rest of school, activities for the following day will always be posted by 6.00pm so that parents can familiarise themselves with activities for the following day.

Support for both platforms is available on our school website under **Home Learning update January 2021. Please visit here for user guides and advice on how to use devices such as X Box and Play Stations to access the internet.**

Headteacher Mr. N. Edensor

Tel. No. 0113 2716978

www.beestonprimaryschool.co.uk

Part of the Leodis Schools Alliance

What can parents do to support remote learning ?

Each family is unique so should approach home learning in a way which suits them. However, here are some pointers which might help.

- Routines really help children so we recommend keeping some structure to your day.
- On demand lessons (recorded by our teachers) mean that you can choose to support your child at a time of day which suits you; we know that many of you are juggling your own work commitments as well as home school for more than one child (often with limited devices).
- Find a balance of support, encouragement and independence. Help keep children on task and offer praise and encouragement along the way. Younger children may well need some help with the technology too – at least until they get used to the platform. We haven't had as much practise in school as we would have liked!
- As much as possible, provide children with an appropriate space to work and learn. They will need somewhere comfortable and away from too many distractions.
- Break the day up with exercise and try to get some fresh air. Mental health and wellbeing is important and getting out of the house for a short while will really help.
- Remember every day is a new day and try and keep as positive as possible. We can all only do our best. Be kind to yourselves.

Some parents have voiced concern about too much screen time with remote learning being online. We do understand that it is not ideal to be looking at a laptop or tablet for too long. With this in mind, teacher inputs will not be as long as they would be in class and pupils will then have an opportunity to go away and complete a set task. This does not have to be typed into the computer and can be hand-written by children on paper – in fact sometimes teachers will ask for this to happen so there can be a focus on correct letter and number formation.

Finally, we are very much on a journey with remote learning. We value your feedback and will ensure that we consult with staff, parents and pupils regularly as we move forward. It's important to us that we get it right so please bear with us while we find our way.

We know that having your children at home is not easy for anyone. We all want to keep our families safe and yet we know how important education is and how much children benefit from being in school with their peers. Please know that school is here to support you as much as we possibly can and we will very much look forward to opening our doors to everyone just as soon as we are allowed to.

Please look after each other and stay safe.

Best wishes,

The Senior Leadership Team

Mr N. Edensor
Headteacher

Mrs B. Tidey
Senior Deputy Headteacher

Mr S Nicholson
Deputy Headteacher

Headteacher Mr. N. Edensor

Tel. No. 0113 2716978

www.beestonprimaryschool.co.uk

Part of the Leodis Schools Alliance