



Burnside Academy

Brinkburn Crescent

Houghton-le-Spring

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Headteacher: Mrs L Kelly

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you and your family are well. We send our very best wishes to our families who are experiencing difficult times and sickness.

We have had a very productive and happy week at school with all of the children working hard and enjoying some very chilly playtimes! It has been lovely to hear from class teachers about how everyone is getting on at home and they are very happy with how hard our children are working via Showbie. A huge well done to everyone!

After four weeks of home schooling I hope the work set on Showbie is supporting both you and your child with your school day routine. Many of you have requested and received a laptop from school already which can be used to carry out home learning. If this is something which you require to support your child please speak to your child's class teacher.

I do think the staff and our families are doing a superb job, given the challenging circumstances. Please do remember that we are here to support you and we recognise that everyone is trying their best.

Free School Meals

Children who are entitled to free school meals have received vouchers. If you are having any issues obtaining these vouchers please contact the school office. These vouchers will also be issued during the February half-term break.

Mental Health Week

Next week **all** children are invited to participate in daily activities linked to the five ways to well-being followed by a 'feel good' day on Friday. Children attending school on Friday can wear their own clothes so they can show their own individuality linked to the theme of the week 'Express Yourself!'

Equipment

If you require any stationery materials or exercise books for your child please speak to your child's class teacher when they call you or contact school.

Beginning and the end of the day on school site

A polite reminder please to all of our families who access the school site. To help keep our school community safe, every child coming to school **MUST** be dropped off and picked up by one adult. Please can I also ask you to maintain social distancing with other families and your child's class teacher/teaching assistant. The safest way to speak to your child's class teacher during this lockdown period of time is by telephone. Please can I also advise you to wear a face covering whilst on the school site.

Safeguarding

During this period of lockdown, if you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact a designated safeguarding lead in school - Mrs Kelly, Mrs Downey or Mrs Houghton.

Term Dates

School will break up on Friday 12th February and re-open on Monday 22nd February.

As usual, if there is anything at all that you would like to talk about, or that is concerning you, please do not hesitate to contact me at school. We are here to help and will get back to you as soon as possible. As soon as we receive information regarding re-opening the school to all children we will be in touch.

Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs Kelly
Headteacher