



Bow, Durham School

Co-educational Day 3-11

Confidence for Life

South Road
Durham
DH1 3LS

0191 731 9270

bow@durhamschool.co.uk

19th March 2020

Dear Parents

Further to the detail of Mr McLaughlin's letter, I write to give guidance to our remote learning provision, which will start on Monday 23rd March 2020.

Staff are working hard to put resources in place to deliver the academic programme for our pupils at Bow and our aim is to ensure that children continue to receive a broad curriculum.

VLE (VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT)

The School's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) will be the primary portal for learning activities to be posted on a day to day basis. The VLE is accessible via the school website and selecting the Login link in the top right-hand corner.

- ***Pupils in Years 3-6 are all able to login to the portal using their school network login details.***
- ***For FS1 to Year 2, parents should log in with their account details in the usual way.***

If you have not already registered for our VLE then please simply send an email (from the email address you have already provided to the school) to helpdesk@durhamschool.co.uk to request access. Please include in your email: the name(s) of your children, their date(s) of birth and your mobile phone number which you have already provided to us.

You will receive an email with further instructions on how to register for the Parent Portal shortly afterwards.

If you have any issues with accessing your account then please email helpdesk@durhamschool.co.uk

Remote Learning (during term-time)

- Our aim is to follow the current timetable and curriculum as much as we are able to and we will be structuring our daily lessons to allow this.
- At 8:40am a teacher will be available through the VLE Chatroom function, where a virtual register can be taken and any notices can be passed on, much like the usual registration period at the start of a school day. Parents and children will be able to chat live with the tutors.
 - *Please remember all comments will be visible to everyone in the tutor group.*
- All tasks will be available from the start of the day and will remain on the VLE so they can be completed at a convenient time.

- At 10:20, each day, a member of staff will be on the Chatrooms as an alternative to our usual daily assembly time.
- Staff members will also be available on Chatrooms during an afternoon registration session at the end of day chatroom at 4:10.
- To access the Chatrooms through the VLE, select the groups icon followed by the Chatroom button.

Early Years Foundation Stage (FS1 and FS2)

There will be a range of daily activities on the VLE. Completed activities can be photographed or evidenced back to staff using our current Tapestry tool :

<https://tapestryjournal.com/>

If you have not yet activated your Tapestry account, please do so by contacting Mrs Davies or Mrs Edmundson:

a.davies@durhamschool.co.uk or a.edmundson@durhamschool.co.uk

Form 1 and 2

Learning Tasks will be accessible on the VLE. Work can be submitted back through the portal or emailed to class teachers (see communication below).

Forms 3 to 6

Children have a good level of experience using the VLE independently and will know how to access the resources and submit work. However, should you experience any difficulty, email communication can be used.

We are very mindful that everyone has different circumstances at home and we do not underestimate the difficulties that may be caused by pupils not being able attend school. However, we are grateful to parents for their support in emphasising to their sons and daughters the importance of keeping to a set routine as far as possible. We recognise the demands placed on families for working from home and the need for internet access, so please be assured there is flexibility built into the programme as well as designated live contact time.

Learning Log

A Learning Log overview is available for you to complete. Paper copies will be sent home on Friday and this is also available on the VLE as an electronic copy. This will be a useful resource to keep teachers up to date with how learning is progressing and will enable us to track and assess progress.

Other useful resources

There are so many web-based resources that can be used and it would be easy to provide endless lists which would become quite overwhelming so we will release links as appropriate and/or connected to lessons.

On our Remote Learning page you will see communal folders such as 'Outdoor Learning', 'Creativity' and 'Keep Moving' these resources will allow for flexible learning which can involve the family together.

Reading Resources

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/> A very useful website from Oxford Owl which provides a free E-Book library for 3-11 year olds.

All reading books in Pre-prep are colour banded using a sticker on the spine of the reading book. The e-books on Oxford Owl are also colour banded, so you can find an e-book at an appropriate level for your child. There are also age banded books for children who have moved into 'free reading'.

Communication

We will continue to communicate with you in our usual ways throughout the school closure. As well as individual contact via email, the school telephone lines will be manned as usual and we will use text messaging, InTouch and the website/social media as and when necessary.

If you need to contact a member of staff to discuss any aspect of work provision, then please use their email address which is of the form fristinitial.surname@durhamschool.co.uk

Staff will be contactable during normal school hours (8.40am – 4.10pm) and will endeavour to respond to your query as quickly as possible.

We do appreciate how difficult and unsettling this situation is. We are mindful of the need to reassure children who may be worried for themselves and their families and all of the pastoral support we regularly give is available to our pupils. Please do get in touch with us if you feel there is anything we need to know or that we can do.

We will work hard to provide learning updates and will reflect and modify as necessary throughout the closure time.

Thank you for your understanding and support at this difficult time.

Yours sincerely



S L Harrod
Head of Bow, Durham School

Accessing our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)

For pupils: Go to www.durhamschool.co.uk

Click on the link at the top as shown here:



Enter the username and password they use to access the school's computers.



This will open up the Bow, Durham School VLE page.

If there are any issues with this then please contact helpdesk@durhamschool.co.uk

[How to access the daily lessons on the VLE](#)

For Children and Parents.

From the main VLE Homepage select the websites icon



Then select Bow School Main Site



This will open up our main VLE web page and display the link to our remote learning space.

Click on the link



This will open up our remote learning space.

Please select the appropriate Year group from the top menu and you will be able to access the folders for each day's lessons.