

# Lockdown Newsletter #3



The way in which we are working is evolving all the time as we seek to respond to the needs of our pupils. This newsletter will provide you with an update of how we are working to support you and your children while schools are closed.

## Communication with Parents

Now that more children have returned to school, most staff are deployed working in school. The additional safety measures needed (determined by the DfE) means a high number of staff are needed for a relatively small number of children in school. There is a small team of staff working from home who are supporting the children learning at home. They are running daily dropins, live phonics lessons, managing the Google Classroom and making contact with children as needed. The daily dropin is open to children and parents to ask questions about home learning or just to say hello.

Please remember to let us know of any changes to your contact details while school is closed. We need to be able to make contact with all families and if we can't get hold of you, we'll start to worry. Please email any changes to the address below and update your parentmail account as necessary.

Staff in school are doing as much as they can to continue to support the children learning at home. In addition to the work set in the Google Classroom there are a number of other learning and contact opportunities. These are summarised on the timetable and will appear on your child's Google Calendar.

We do not want any child struggling with learning at home and feeling isolated. Children can get in touch with school staff at any time to ask questions about learning by leaving a message on the Google Classroom Stream, emailing teachers or joining the daily video dropin. It might not always be the usual class teacher who answers questions but one of the team will respond as quickly as we can. Parents can always make contact using the usual email address below and messages can be forwarded to different members of staff as needed.

[parents@westberryfederation.org.uk](mailto:parents@westberryfederation.org.uk)

## Home Learning

Foundation Subjects ...  
KEY STAGE 2 (Yr 3,4,5,6)  
78 students

Pre-school, YrR, 1 & 2 ...  
Home Learning  
28 students

Foundation Subjects ...  
Pre-school, Reception, Yr1 & Yr 2  
27 students

Year 3/4 Eng & Maths ...  
Home Learning for Year 3/4 at Berryn...  
58 students

Children at school will be following the Maths and English lessons posted in the Google Classroom. We are encouraging children at home to complete the same lessons in the Google Classroom. Worksheet packs support these lessons. The Oak Academy English Lessons and White Rose Maths Lessons are presented via a video. It is important that children watch and engage with these short video presentations (even if they think that they can do the worksheet without the lesson). The videos build learning over the unit and if children don't watch them they often come unstuck towards the end of the unit. There are still lots of other learning opportunities detailed in

the Google Classroom - please encourage your child to engage with a variety of subjects in addition to Maths and English.

We encourage children to 'Submit' or 'Mark as done' when they have completed a learning task. This allows teachers to check what children are learning and to provide feedback when needed. Lots of Green Cards are being emailed out to children who are doing great work at home.

Cherry class families also have access to Tapestry and can choose to use Tapestry, the Google Classrooms or both.

**If your child has not been able to access the Google Classroom yet or is struggling to find what they need, please let us know and we'll do what we can to help.**

## Adult training

Recent times have really highlighted how key technology has become in our lives. Accessing services and staying connected by digital means has been hugely valuable. But we also know that some families don't feel confident using digital technology and might feel they or their children are being left behind or disadvantaged. We'd like to help. If you have questions about using or supporting your child to use digital technology we will do what we can to help or offer bespoke 1:1 training when possible. There are no silly questions - if you are frustrated by not knowing something or how to use something please ask.

## Worksheets

Worksheet packs are being prepared every week for collection outside the school gate. If you'd like a pack and haven't already ordered one for your child/ren please email [parents@westberryfederation.org.uk](mailto:parents@westberryfederation.org.uk)

## Free School Meals and foodbank

### vouchers

If your financial situation has changed please check whether your child is now eligible for Free School Meals.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-meals>

Becoming eligible now will enable us to support you with meals funding now but also support your child in school for the next 6 years even if the change in your financial situation is only temporary. We are providing funding of £15 a week per primary school aged child to the families of children who are in receipt of means tested free

school meals to help with the increased cost of food while schools are closed.

If you are struggling to have enough food please get in touch and we will do what we can to help. We can explore a number of options including food parcels or providing food bank vouchers.

## Home Alone Children

We are aware of the increased pressure on families where children are not currently able to attend school but parents need to work outside of the home. The local authorities have asked us to share the following information with all parents.

There is no law about when you can leave your child on their own, but it is an offence to leave them alone if it places them at risk. As parents, you should use your judgement on how mature your child is before you decide to leave them at home. Read the government advice on the [law on leaving children unattended](#).



**Are you entitled?**

It is important to be aware that you can be prosecuted if you leave a child alone 'in a manner likely to cause unnecessary suffering or injury to health'. If you are at all unsure, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) recommends that children under 12 are rarely mature enough to be left alone for a long period of time, children under 16 should not be left alone overnight and babies, toddlers and very young children should never be left alone.

## Upcoming virtual events

Our end of term **virtual disco** will be held on 3rd July 5.30pm until 6.15pm - thanks again to Tony for hosting this event. We're also planning a few more community events to help to keep the West Berry Family connected.

The children have been asked to take part in a **Virtual Sports Day**. We'd like to thank Laura Martin from Woolacombe school for sharing this with us. The children can access a powerpoint about the event via the Google Classrooms. There are links to videos showing the children what to do and a record card for the children to record their scores. Children can submit their score card by email by 3rd July.

**Lockdown Celebration.** The last few months have been (hopefully) a unique event in most people's lives. Lots of children have tried something new. We'd love to capture the positive experiences and learning from the last few months. A new Google Classroom will soon be opened called 'Lockdown - the highlights'. We will invite children to post comments, photos, videos or documents to tell the West Berry Federation Community about their favourite parts of their Lockdown Experience. It could be photos of a piece of artwork or DIY project, a poem or reflection about spending more time at home or with family. Maybe children have learnt a new skill or practiced existing skills that they'd like to tell us about. Has your family discovered a new favourite walk, recipe or hobby that could inspire others? Have you spotted different wildlife that has amazed you?

Capturing the 'best bits' will help us all to celebrate the good things that have happened over the last few months and could provide a bank of inspirational ideas to keep children busy over the holidays. Our collection of experiences could even become a historical record!

**Broadening Horizons.** Last year we held our first annual Broadening Horizons event. Guests were invited to come into school and talk the Y5/6 children about their career and travel experiences. We've adapted it this year and invited guests to send us a video presentation. Children in Y5 and Y6 will soon be invited to join a new Google Classroom where they will be able to access these interesting videos and post questions for the speakers.

## Summer Provision

We are not able to offer any Summer Club provision this year during the school holidays for a number of reasons.

- We have not yet received any guidance about what will need to be in place by September to ensure that school is safe for the children. We may need to make changes to the building over the Summer break.
- Restrictions on group size means that provision would not be financially viable and there is no funding available to support the increased costs.
- Many staff have worked through the Easter and half term holidays (and have worked many many more evenings and weekends than normal) and need a break to ensure they are rested and ready for the next school year.

We will advertise any Summer Childcare/activity opportunities that are brought to our attention.

## Next Year

We have not yet received any guidance about how school might need to be organised next year beyond the media reports that the government intend to have all children return to school in September.

There are still many unknowns but, all being well, we intend to make a few staff changes. We plan that at Berrynarbor, Mrs Jones and Mrs Griffiths will teach Y2 and Mr Jones will teach Y3/4 All other Berrynarbor teachers will remain in their current classes. At West Down we plan that Miss O'Rourke will teach the Foundation Stage children in Cherry Class and Mrs Henderson will teach Y1/2 children. All other West Down teachers will stay in their current class. We very much hope to be able to continue our very successful timetable with teachers teaching their specialist subject in the afternoons and moving between classes across our schools (particularly in KS2).