

3rd February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you for your ongoing support during this unusual time. Staff have been delighted to receive so many messages of thanks from parents/carers and we are very proud of the resilience our students are showing in engaging with their remote learning. We understand this is a challenging time for parents/carers and appreciate all that you are doing to support your child's education and keep them in their learning routines.

Half-term

Please be advised that the DfE announced on Tuesday, 26 January 2021 that schools would close as planned for the half-term break. Bournville School will close to those currently attending at 3.00pm on Friday (3.15pm for primary), 12 February and re-open to the keyworker and other eligible students who have been attending on Monday, 22 February 2021.

The government free school meal voucher scheme will not run over half term, but vouchers will resume following the half term break. Birmingham city council are planning to offer a voucher scheme through Sodexo and we will update eligible parents as we receive information.

If you have any concerns regarding hardship in this difficult period please email post@bournville.fmat.co.uk marked confidential FAO Mr Dovey.

Wider re-opening

The Prime Minister recently announced that he hopes to re-open schools from Monday, 8 March 2021, provided the rates of infection and hospital admissions are low enough to do so. The information regarding this re-opening has not yet been released. We will update you as soon as we are able to and very much look forward to welcoming our students back.

Well-being

We would like to remind you that your child's form tutor is holding a weekly form time session with members of their form, which your child must attend. This is to help us to ensure that students are well supported by the school at this time. Our pastoral team will be contacting students and parents who do not take part to ensure they are safe, well, and able to access online learning. Our website has two dedicated sections which contain information on how to support your child and how to keep your child safe, and links to organisations that can support children and families:

<http://www.bournvilleschool.org/academy-life/safeguarding/> and
<http://www.bournvilleschool.org/academy-life/student-wellbeing/>

In our primary phase, we will continue to contact all parents and pupils each week to ensure their well-being and to check that they are able to access the online learning.

Ahead of Mental Health Awareness Week, students will be shown an assembly during form time regarding mental health. Exercise is key to wellbeing and our PE team have set a "Fit In Feb" exercise challenge for students to complete, please encourage your child to complete this physical activity. If you have any concerns about your child's wellbeing please email your child's form tutor or head of year for secondary or class teacher or Miss Bharj for primary.

If your child is unable to take part in online learning due to not having a suitable device (e.g. laptop) or due to problems with internet access please contact us post@bournville.fmat.co.uk marked FAO Mr Giles.

Supporting Literacy

We would like to reinforce the importance of reading and encourage all students to continue reading for pleasure during lockdown. In lessons, English teachers have been recommending websites for students to access free books and audiobooks. The links are below:

EYFS and Key Stage 1

Phonics: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/primary/zd7p47h>

All primary phases. Follow the link to English: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/primary/zd7p47h>

Free reading guides for popular KS2 books to help with reading with your child:

<https://cornerstoneseducation.co.uk/news/free-access-to-cornerstones-love-to-read-resources-for-home-learning/>

All primary years: <https://www.getepic.com/>

Years 7-9

[Virtual School Library | Oak Academy \(thenational.academy\)](#)

[Audible Stories: Free Audiobooks for Kids | Audible.com](#)

[Books in Children's Literature \(sorted by popularity\) - Project Gutenberg](#)

In addition, year 9 have been studied extracts from dystopian fiction this half term. Mrs Lewis has shared links to all of the books online for students to continue reading these stories.

Years 10-11

[Audible Stories: Free Audiobooks for Kids | Audible.com](#)

[Top 100 | Project Gutenberg](#)

Dr Burrells is currently running a reading competition, and students can win a £10 Amazon voucher. To enter, students need to read a book and complete the Microsoft Form sent by their English teacher.

Yours sincerely



Miss M Green
Head of Academy