



# Barton, Ravensworth, East Cowton and Kirkby Fleetham CE Schools



Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

For the majority of us, this week has definitely not turned out as expected. I was certainly surprised on Monday night to hear the announcement that schools would be closed for such a long time. As a staff we fully appreciate just how much parents have had to adapt and how difficult it is for parents to home school – especially with the other commitments they have at home themselves. The teaching staff will do their best to support everyone, please do ask for help. We will be keeping a register of daily attendance and this week **Almost 100% of our pupils** across the four schools have engaged with home schooling – this is really, really impressive and we are so delighted to have had this response! A very big well done to all our children. There have been a few technical problems to iron out with our first live lessons, and we thank you for your understanding. On the whole we have had fantastic feedback from parents, this is a learning process and we will all progress together. Please do keep sending in your feedback as it will help us to support you if we know what works well and what doesn't.

The lessons being taught have been planned collaboratively by teachers across the four schools and we have been able to make the best use of subject specialisms amongst the teachers to ensure high quality planning across the curriculum. The termly overview (planned before lockdown) is available on the home learning tab of our website

<https://www.ravensworth.dalesmat.org/home-learning/>

I would like to thank all of our staff for their commitment to securing the best education for our children. They have worked long hours this week to adapt their planning and practice and have had to very quickly turn things around and learn new skills along the way.

## Access to home learning devices

Some of you have been in contact to ask whether school will be able to provide laptops. Unfortunately school does not own enough devices to give one to every pupil. Schools have been told that the DfE will contact them after 15<sup>th</sup> January to allow them to apply for devices, though schools in the most disadvantaged areas will take priority. We may be waiting for a week or so yet before we know whether we can apply.

We have been told that if you have a recent **xbox or playstation** you should be able to access Microsoft Teams through these.

## Dfe mobile phone data offer

If any families are struggling to access remote learning because they do not have internet access in their home, the DfE are working with mobile phone providers to increase data on parents/guardians/children's phones to allow the device to be connected to the phone to enable internet access, these are the mobile phone providers who are taking part;

- Three
- Smarty
- Virgin Mobile
- EE
- Tesco Mobile
- Sky Mobile
- O2

If this is something you would be interested in, please contact Mrs Richmond in the school office, who will be happy to help you.

## Remote learning resources

Our remote learning policy is available in the policies section of the website.

<https://www.ravensworth.dalesmat.org/our-school/policies/>



As well as input from our teachers we will be signposting children to the Oak National Academy. This is an online classroom and resource hub, that was set up specifically for remote learning and has online lessons planned and led by teachers from across the country. We have planned some of the units in for this term. BBC bitesize also has some useful resources and we may direct you to them at times.

CBBC have announced that from Monday they will be delivering lessons on TV. We would prefer that parents engage with the lessons that we have planned in the first instance, but we are sure there will be useful resources here too.



## Education Endowment foundation

The EEF describe themselves as 'an independent charity dedicated to breaking the link between family income and educational achievement.' They carry out in depth educational research and provide advice and guidance for schools. They have published a number of documents to help parents with home learning and these can be found here

[https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19\\_Resources/Resources\\_for\\_parents/Summary\\_of\\_Resources\\_-\\_Parents.pdf](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19_Resources/Resources_for_parents/Summary_of_Resources_-_Parents.pdf)

I would particularly like to recommend this plan for **home learning routines** which will help children to get into good habits:

[https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19\\_Resources/Resources\\_for\\_parents/Supporting\\_home\\_learning\\_routines\\_-\\_Planning\\_the\\_day.pdf](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19_Resources/Resources_for_parents/Supporting_home_learning_routines_-_Planning_the_day.pdf)

and this short video

[https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/videos/EEF\\_Supporting\\_daily\\_routines\\_during\\_school\\_closures.mp4](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/videos/EEF_Supporting_daily_routines_during_school_closures.mp4)

By 1pm today all four of our schools were closed due to the weather to allow staff to get home safely, many thanks to our key worker parents for their understanding of this. The snow has hit some areas much harder than others, but I hope that many of our children have chance to play in the snow this weekend.

Please do get in touch if we can help with anything, have a restful weekend and stay safe everyone!

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H Dudman'.

Mrs H Dudman  
Executive Headteacher