

# Brookwood Primary News



Friday 20th March 2020

Issue 25

As I write this week's newsletter there is not the usual 'Friday' buzz as we gear up for the weekend. We have all found it incredibly hard saying good-bye to the children and not knowing when we will be fully open again. I am unbelievably proud of the efforts of every member of staff over the last couple of weeks and feel very privileged to lead such a fantastic team. Reacting to the rapidly changing situation we find ourselves in has been both physically and emotionally challenging and I would like to publicly thank ALL the staff for everything they have done.

In addition, we would like to thank you at home for your support, encouragement and appreciation this week. As a school, we want to do everything we can to support the response to fighting COVID-19 and plan to open on Monday for key worker families where it is not possible for the children to be looked after at home during the school day.

It was with huge disappointment that 'The Look Out' whole school trip was cancelled and while we know it was the right decision, it was such a shame that the timing of the visit meant we were unable to go. Miss Rowland and Mrs Kitcat had spent hours and hours organising the trip, preparing risk assessments and timetabling coaches and activities on the day and much more. Thank you so much to them and I hope it is something we will enjoy together at another time.

Please can I ask you for your patience in terms of receiving work at home? We are currently working hard to prepare home-learning packs but our priority this week has been keeping the school open and dealing with all of the additional work as a result of the situation we are in. Meanwhile, on pages two and three of the newsletter, there is information regarding 'Times Table Rock Stars' and 'Bug Club' and a link with lots of free education resources and ideas for you to use.

I will continue to update you on the position we are in as a school but if you have any questions or concerns over the weekend then please email me directly [david.gunning@brookwood.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:david.gunning@brookwood.surrey.sch.uk). As a school, regardless of partial closure, we want to remain at the heart of this community and support you all in anyway that we possibly can.

I will send a separate email to key worker families with children coming in on Monday with more information about plans for the day.

Thank you for your continued and valued support - take care.

David Gunning

## **FACEBOOK!**

Please like our NEW FACEBOOK page. Please find and 'like' us by searching:

Brookwood Primary School—BET

We will be updating the page a lot more as a way of communicating to families. Can I encourage you to share this page with each other so it can be a really positive way to communicate?



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## Bug Club

Mrs Armstrong has been very busy this week updating 'Bug Club'. Bug Club is an online reading tool that the children will be familiar with. All children have been allocated books to their currently assessed level. I have set the programme has been set to automatic meaning if a child reads all the books from their current band, they will automatically move up to the next level of challenge. In addition, there is a read to me option available on the KS1 level books.

The information is below and if you have any questions at all then please contact david.gunning@brookwood.surrey.sch.uk

<https://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk/login?c=0&l=0>

Login details:

username: 1st four letters of 1st name, 1st four letters of surname eg. John Smith would be johnsmit

## Times Table Rock Stars

Times Table Rock Stars is fantastic resource available for all children to use and is a fantastic way of learning and practising times tables at home. From my experience as a Year 6 teacher, the ability to recall times tables is so important and it is such a valuable skill.

We suggest all children spending 15 minutes a day on Times Table Rock Stars. If you haven't received your login or have any questions then please contact the school office team at office@brookwood.surrey.sch.uk

This a particularly useful tool for any children not in school.

## Trips and Events that have been Postponed or Cancelled

Thank you for patience in waiting for information about refunds for postponed and cancelled trips and events and payment for future ones. We find ourselves in an unprecedented position with the current Coronavirus situation and its impact on the school and wider community.

We are currently looking into this and following up on guidance with regard to residential trips and their cancellation policies. We would ask you to kindly bear with us while we look into these arrangements. We will contact all parents in due course with further information.

If this causes you any great financial difficulty please email Mrs Kitcat on [tina.kitcat@brookwood.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:tina.kitcat@brookwood.surrey.sch.uk)

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## Recommended Websites

As a school, we will provide opportunities for home-learning. Early next week, we will meet as a staffing team and agree on what this will look like. Meanwhile, please use some of the recommended websites with your child.

<https://www.khanacademy.org>

Especially good for maths and computing for all ages but other subjects at Secondary level. Note this uses the U.S. grade system but it's mostly common material.

Scratch

<https://scratch.mit.edu/explore/projects/games/>

Creative computer programming

National Geographic Kids

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/>

Activities and quizzes for younger children.

Duolingo

<https://www.duolingo.com>

Learn languages for free. Web or app.

Mystery Science

<https://mysteryscience.com>

Free science lessons

Paw Print Badges

<https://www.pawprintbadges.co.uk>

Free challenge packs and other downloads. Many activities can be completed indoors. Badges cost but are optional.

Twinkl

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk>

This is more for printouts, and usually at a fee, but they are offering a month of free access to parents in the event of school closures.

[https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/?](https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/?fbclid=IwAR1Zm2laB3kOnwmhup1JV18b_ZrHBXnemxFM5O8pWzwDRHDT4s8FjaCp5K8)

[fbclid=IwAR1Zm2laB3kOnwmhup1JV18b\\_ZrHBXnemxFM5O8pWzwDRHDT4s8FjaCp5K8](https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/?fbclid=IwAR1Zm2laB3kOnwmhup1JV18b_ZrHBXnemxFM5O8pWzwDRHDT4s8FjaCp5K8)

From Monday Joe Wicks, The Body Coach is offering free PE type sessions on his You Tube channel (The Body Coach TV)