Barr Beacon School
www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk

Our Ref: LD/DLE/cc/HelpingChildWorkAtHome

20th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Helping your child work at home

Although the government have said that "asking students to put their education on hold" is necessary to beat COVID-19, we are doing everything we can so your child can continue their learning.

Realistically, we cannot recreate the experience of being face-to-face with a teacher in the classroom and we know many parents/carers will have substantial daytime commitments of their own. But the more that you encourage them to work through the extensive materials we have provided, the more your child will get out of them.

Here are some pointers you may find helpful:

Where to start
Our advice is that you support your child to follow the school timetable each day. There are specific learning activities for every subject in every year.
http://barrbeaconschool.co.uk/working-at-home/

All of the resources you need are in the All Resources section (scroll down) where you will see a list of all subjects. Click the links to open up the folder of resources for that subject. There are also links to an online encyclopedia (Britannica), free ebooks available through iTunes and a video which explains how to self-quiz using knowledge organisers. Electronic versions of knowledge organisers are in the All Resources folders and your child will have paper copies of some of them in their exercise books.

If you have limited accesss to technology at home then the best thing you can do is pick up a reading book! If you are self-isolating with your child then why not read with them? Educational research has shown that nothing has a bigger impact on the educational attainment of students than their reading. On our Working At Home page you will find a link to free books to read at home as well as Barr Beacon's guidance on how to get the most out of reading time.

If your child needs guidance or feedback from their teachers
We have designed the work so it does not require a great deal of teacher intervention. However, there may be times they would value additional guidance or receive some feedback. On our Working At Home site your child will find instructions for using Microsoft Teams, a way for your child to stay in touch with their teachers so they can receive guidance and feedback. Please make it clear to your child that this is not a social space but an online learning environment. Students will not use this to chat with friends – this is for educational use only.

Teams is being constantly monitored, just as computers are in school, so students must not post anything inappropriate. If pupils do post anything inappropriate, they will be banned from Teams groups and they will not have access to their teachers, meaning they will have to learn completely independently. As a school we will inform parents/carers immediately. Your child's account is their responsibility. We will not accept excuses such as "Someone posted something from my account while I was away from the computer." We also ask that you ensure your child addresses teachers respectfully, as they would do in school. Never use their first name. Use their title and full surname, E.g. Mr Lowbridge-Ellis, Mr Phillips.

Should your child abuse this privilege by inappropriately using Microsoft Teams, they will also face consequences when we return to school.

There is the possibility that teachers may become ill themselves in the period we are off school and unable to respond to pupils. If your child does not receive a response after 24 hours (Monday to Friday), please contact postbox@barrbeaconschool.co.uk

We are grateful for your continuing support. We have already received a lot of positive feedback about the work we have provided.

Yours sincerely

Ms L Draycott
Headteacher