

**BARNWELL SCHOOL**  
**HOME SCHOOLING UPDATE 1**  
**23/3/2020**

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to day 1 of our new educational landscape.

Can we start by thanking you all for adhering to government guidance, regarding students only coming in to school if their parents and carers are key workers. This has ensured we have been able to put an appropriate and safe provision in place.

We have had several messages informing us that several of the online platforms have crashed today. Unfortunately, this is a national problem and companies like Show My Homework and Kerboodle are working hard to increase their capacity.

When students first look at the amount of work being set on SMHW it could become daunting. Obviously providing all work online is new for teachers as well as students so we are constantly monitoring the amount of work and the type of tasks being asked. As we go forward from here, I am convinced we will get the balance right. Below are the expectations on both staff and students for our online provision:

**Teachers**

- The instruction to staff is to attempt to set the amount of work comparable to the time students would have the lesson in school e.g. if a student has 5 maths lessons then the teacher should set work that takes approximately 250 minutes etc.
- All work is being set for a Monday as we cannot expect staff and students to be online at the same time. All work is due by the end of the week and one identified piece is due to be submitted by Friday.
- Teachers have one week to provide feedback.

**Students**

- Complete as much work online as possible, if this is not possible then complete on paper.
- Do as much work set that is possible in your designated time.
- Tip: Stick to your normal school timetable to help you manage your time and work.

It is appreciated that attempting to home school your children may be difficult and that access to IT equipment may need to be shared between parents/carers and students. We have provided you with a sample organiser that has been used in several schools we work with. It helps to add structure and helps maintain a positive routine. It also asks them what they will do to help their families around the house!

So that you are not bombarded with multiple messages, we will be sending weekly newsletters with advice and guidance and we will be asking for feedback on work and mental health as we continue through the period of school closure.

Once again thank you for your continued support and please stay safe.

Mr T Fitzpatrick  
Executive Headteacher

Mr M Roberts  
Head of School