

Hillesley

PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Jan 15th 2021 Newsletter 3

Dear Parents,

I hope you are all well?

Thank you for helping your child engage with the home learning. The teaching staff have worked tirelessly again this week to make sure resources and activities are sourced, viewed, altered to suit, changed formatting, uploading to the G Suite, contacting parents and children and responding to turned in work and questions.

Next week there will a timetable available for remote learning now that we have been able to establish a working pattern. The teachers will provide information via the class e mails and during any Google meets and this information will also be on the school website in due course. I ask for your patience and an understanding of the complexities that we are facing trying to make the remote learning as relevant and accessible as possible for all. Teachers and TAs at Hillesley are mostly part time but they have been spending much of their week both in school and at home, working on this. Much of this work is fairly new to most of us and it is a completely different way of teaching (the job we are all actually trained to do) however, I have been impressed by the speed, determination and dedication the staff have given to the remote learning.

For those of you who have requested critical worker provision a separate letter and booking request form has gone out. So that all parents are aware I wish to be as transparent as possible about this provision and assure you that appropriate steps are being taken to make sure those requesting this critical worker provision actually need it.

The government guidance states that this provision is for those parents who have a critical role in the battle against covid 19 and the transition to the EU changes and those who keep essential services running. The guidance also states that even critical workers should try to keep their children at home if they have the means to do so as the main purpose of the national lockdown is to limit social interaction to the very minimum. This has been strongly conveyed to critical worker parents and proof of occupation, employment and critical roles is being sought. Critical workers who have a front line role in various sectors are to be supported and commended however, sadly the interpretation of the critical workers' list has left schools managing their provision offer by negotiating with parents who request it.

There is also a rota running for staff so we can make sure there is adequate cover for those in school and providing the remote learning whilst all the while being very mindful of the number of households mixing in the school site on a daily basis. As you know, this is not a large, open site so we are restricted by space and the ability to maintain social distancing. When staff are not on site they have school related work to carry out in contracted hours and when they are in school, they are on duty the whole time with little chance for breaks. The staff here have all volunteered to be flexible with their hours and work- days and I cannot thank them enough as it is by this means that we have kept everything running and as safe as possible. I understand that some of you have had some technical issues and there have been questions about the remote learning and I appreciate how tricky it can be combining home learning with all your other work and home responsibilities. These are difficult, uncharted waters and we must work together to do the best we can.

I wish you all a pleasant, stay-at-home weekend,

Regards,

J. Pedley

Growing Together in Learning and Life