

Hillesley

PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Friday February 12th 2021

Newsletter 5, Term 3

Dear Parents,

Thank you all for your hard work with the remote learning this term. The sudden lockdown on January 5th seems like such a long time ago.

When Term 4 starts there will be at least two more weeks of remote learning however, it is at that point when hopefully we should be finding out if schools will re-open fully from March 8th.

Week 1, Term 4 starts Monday February 22nd and I am letting you know in advance about some themed work we will be sending out for home learning that week. The week will have a focus on “Growth, growing, hope and signs of spring.”

There will be Google Meets with myself and the teachers on Monday 22nd February;

KS2 meet at 9.15 until about 9.40 KS1 meet at 9.45 – 10.10

During these Google Meets we will introduce the theme and give you more information about what we will be doing. You will receive either through your door or by post, an envelope containing some beans and cress seeds to plant. You will need to make sure you have a glass jar and a litre or larger tetra pack (old orange juice carton for example) and some tissues or cotton wool. Please do not plant the beans and seeds until you have joined us for the first Google Meets when we will give instructions and follow-up activities to do. I do hope you will all be able to join us that morning and join in the fun activities that the teachers have planned!

Thank you to those who have responded to the survey about the remote, online learning. From responses received so far it seems that most have had relatively positive experiences and the staff have been able to assist with issues that have cropped up from time to time.

The survey will close on Friday 26th February so if you wish to respond please do so by that date. You can access the survey via this link [Hillesley Primary Remote Learning Survey](#)

Once we have re-opened, please keep safe your child's G suite login details as there may be other times, during the coming months, when we need to temporarily close. Hopefully this won't happen but at least we would be prepared. Also be assured that when we know of any full re-opening date, an updated and thorough risk assessment will be carried out to make sure the school continues to be as covid secure as possible.

The teachers have on occasion left items in the school lobby to be collected by parents. These items will have the child's name on them but if there are any problems with this please ask. Admin staff in the office, Mrs Iddon and Mrs Hardwick, might not be aware of the communications about these items as the teachers will most probably communicate to parents via the class emails. Please also note that the office is sometimes unmanned during afternoon sessions. If you need to communicate with the teachers regarding

work or items to be collected, it is best to use the class emails and not admin as this can cause some delay or confusion in communications. A few emails have also gone straight into the class junk folders and we are very sorry if you did not receive timely responses. Apologies if this has affected you and we will try to make sure that items are ready for collection and that this is communicated directly from the teachers via the class emails. We are trying to minimise sending items between school and home and we are also recommending that items are treated with caution and “quarantined” appropriately.

We are very mindful of the additional screen time that the children are engaging with and we want to remind you that we would support parents in the use of their own judgement as to the amount of time their child can cope with. If your child appears to be “screen fatigued” and really finding it hard to focus, then please help them move away and do other things. Even when in school, under normal circumstances, teachers have to make these sorts of decisions about what and when to re-engage and pursue, and what to leave for another lesson. Talk in the media of extended school days worries teachers for the same reasons; overloading children means they will not learn efficiently or at all when faced with longer sessions. Mental health and well-being must always be a consideration in the teaching and learning process to make sure children are able to get the best out of learning opportunities and lessons. We had previously set up and were running catch up programmes in the autumn and winter terms and we will resume these once school re-opens fully, along with assessments to find out where the children are in their learning.

Along with this letter you will find the suggested timetable for work for each key stage. A link to these timetables was provided in a previous class letter and they are also available on the school website here [Remote Learning - Hillesley Primary School](#) If you want further advice about the timings and length of time to spend on each session, please email the teachers with your queries.

Gloucestershire Families Directory has contacts for any parents who feel they may need support with parenting and family issues - www.glofamiliesdirectory.org.uk and parenting@gloucestershire.gov.uk

I hope you all have a good half term break and that you can get outdoors and away from the computer screens!

Best wishes and I look forward to seeing the children on the Google Meets on Monday 22nd February.

Regards,

J. Pedley

Head Teacher

Growing Together in Learning and Life