

Hillesley

PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Friday January 29th 2021 Newsletter 4

Dear Parents,

The end of this term is in sight and I'm sure it has seemed long for all of us, so I would like to thank parents and staff for all their efforts so far.

We would like nothing better than to re-open for all the children but we understand the reasons why we cannot and we are also concerned about what could happen to infection rates if schools are opened to all too soon.

The teachers are continuing to try out different things on Google Classroom to help motivate and enthuse the children as far as is possible remotely and they report to me which children are turning in work and attending Google Meets. I would ask that if children have done work that they send it in via Google Classroom or by email. Teachers comment and feedback on all work sent in, as we are keenly aware that it is often a boost to children to know that their teacher values and appreciates their efforts. Thank you to the children and parents who have sent work, pictures and photos in to us, we really appreciate it.

You will find some remote learning information and the remote learning timetable on the school website. [Remote Learning - Hillesley Primary School](#) All parents were sent the timetables so should already have received a copy. It is important that parents understand that the teachers are selecting work they think most appropriate according to National Curriculum expectations - which must be taught by law in maintained schools - and not purely from teachers' choice. Some parents may be surprised by the content of the curriculum and I will shortly be sending out a survey for parents to provide feedback about their experiences with remote learning - I do hope you will respond. The survey is intended to provide parents with a chance to give us feedback to help us understand how it has been going at home. It has not been an easy time for any of us and the teachers are finding it both more time consuming and less effective than the regular face-to-face teaching role they are so used to! They aim to provide what the children need to keep them engaged in the learning process during this lockdown. We also fully appreciate the behavioural and family issues that can arise and whilst, from personal experience we sympathise, we are not always able to help with this remotely. The lines of communication are always open and please let us know if there is something you think we can help with.

It is very heartening to see how well the vaccination programme is proceeding nationally and indeed it seems Gloucestershire are doing rather well. It is important to remind all those in our families, local and wider communities about their position once they have been vaccinated.

The guidance states that those who have been vaccinated, even after receiving both doses, need to still follow Covid safety advice of social distancing, hand washing and self- isolating if necessary. Those who have not yet been vaccinated should still be cautious and continue to follow current lockdown guidance of course.

As I am sure you are aware, the earliest schools in England will re-open will be March 8th and that is yet to be decided in accordance with government and scientific analysis of the data. All school staff are now testing themselves twice weekly using the lateral flow tests provided. The overall aim is for the government and scientists to monitor the asymptomatic cases that are believed to be currently abundant in the community.

I hope you all had a chance to make the most of the recent snowy weather and that you are all able to get out for some fresh air and exercise.

Please look out for any emails from the teachers and any communications from the school office.

I wish you all a good weekend and I send my best wishes to everyone,
Regards, Mrs Pedley