

Learning delivered with

Text Linked Curriculum



Hillcrest Primary School

TLC

Headteacher: Mr Matthew Try
Hillcrest Primary School Hillcrest Downham Market Norfolk PE38 9ND
Telephone: 01366 388191 **E-mail:** office@hillcrest.norfolk.sch.uk **Fax:** 01366 384286

10th May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

SCHOOL CLOSURE UPDATE 5: It's Business as Usual for the Time Being

After the Prime Minister's announcement we have some certainties but many other questions.

The certainty appears to be that Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will be the first year groups to return to school.

What is less certain is 'when' because although 1st June, straight after half-term, was mentioned, it is clearly a date that is dependent upon the nation's success in continuing to suppress the virus.

However, after that announcement, Hillcrest is preparing plans for a return on 1st June for those age groups already mentioned. There will lots of work undertaken behind the scenes to ensure that, in the event school reopens on that date, it is as safe as possible for the children and the staff who are working in the building and that it is also safe for the parents and carers who will be dropping off and picking up each day.

Without elaborating any further before our plans have been finalised, this will mean that different classes will be starting and ending at different times of day to minimise the contact between parents at those busy times. For parents with children in different age groups and different classes this may result in some inconvenience, but this will be difficult to avoid for everybody as we strive to make the site as safe as possible for all.

We will also ensure that the government guidance for schools that the Prime Minister suggested would be issued in due course, is closely followed as part of any operational plan to keep everyone as safe as possible.

However, in the meantime it is 'business as usual' or at least it is business as we have become to know it in these strange times. Google Classrooms will continue up to and including Friday 22nd May after which time there will be a break for the Whitsun half-term holiday. For those year groups still not at school, Google Classrooms will then continue from 1st June.

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Paper-Based Resources

Around 160 families have requested the latest paper-based resource pack due to be distributed on Tuesday 12th May.

The packs will be distributed via the fire exit of the main school hall and entrance onto the school site is via the main front gate into the car park.

Those collecting will be asked to place a tick beside their child's name after taking a pack so that we know who has and hasn't collected. We will provide pens to do this along with an alcohol gel dispenser. However, should you wish to bring your own pen then please do. We would also ask that parents do not come on to site if they are displaying the main Covid-19 symptoms of continuous cough and fever and that if there is a queue for the packs that the, now familiar, social distancing rules are observed.

Parents of children in Reception and Year 1 should come along on Tuesday 12th May between 10.00 and 10.30. Those in Years 2 and 3 between 10.30 and 11.15 whilst those with children in Years 4, 5 & 6 should drop by between 11.15 and 12.00.

Learning is Everywhere

Please find below a comprehensive list of online educational resources that, at the time of compiling the list, did not require parents to subscribe or pay to register. There are of course other online learning packages available that can be purchased for a fee, but we have steered away from recommending any of these for the time being and feel more comfortable sharing the freely available resources with parents.

Resource	Age Range	Description
https://stories.audible.com/start-listen	EYFS to KS2	All children's audiobooks are available for free while schools are closed

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https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/bookfinder/	EYFS to KS2	A site with recommended booklists, categorised by age range and topic, including fiction and non-fiction. Family activities are included in the 'Home Time' section
https://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com/elevenses/	KS2	One free audio book reading is available to listen to every day
https://www.englishmastery.org/	KS1/KS2	Downloadable resource books providing 8 weeks of activities
https://www.lovereadng4kids.co.uk/	EYFS to KS2	A site with recommended booklists, categorised by age range and topic, covering fiction and non-fiction
https://www.pobble365.com/	KS1/KS2	A new image is published each day as a basis for creative writing. Story starters, questions and drawing ideas are provided
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLDe74j1F52zQ51fqNpKV07E71knNI8HFn	EYFS/KS1	Films of well-loved stories read by Nick Cannon, a trained actor, teacher and trainer available Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 2pm
https://www.hamilton-trust.org.uk/blog/learning-home-packs/	KS1/KS2	Downloadable resource packs with teacher guidance. A week's worth of resources is provided for each year group

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https://www.mathematics mastery.org/free-resources	EYFS to KS2	Downloadable guidance and resource packs for parents and pupils
https://nrich.maths.org/	EYFS to KS2	A range of activities. Some are interactive and some are to be completed offline. Activities are categorised by age range
https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/help-your-child-with-maths	EYFS/KS1	Videos for numeracy development designed for children aged 0 to 6. There are fun activities that can be applied to everyday life and play
https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/	EYFS to KS2	Presentations and downloadable workbooks which are easy to use for parents. New material is being released each week
https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary	KS1/KS2	Interactive resources covering the primary science curriculum
https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006mvsc	EYFS	Videos that get younger children up and dancing with CBeebies presenters
https://www.nhs.uk/10-minute-shake-up/shake-ups	EYFS to KS2	10-minute activities based on Disney films that count towards a child's 60 active minutes per day

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https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/supermovers	KS1/KS2	Videos which help children move while they learn. They support curriculum subjects, including Maths and English
https://www.afpe.org.uk/physical-education/thisispe-supporting-parents-to-teach-pe-at-home/	KS1/KS2	Videos delivered by teachers focusing on the PE curriculum which are accessible on YouTube

Mental Wellbeing

Whilst there is an obvious focus with home-schooling to concentrate on the children's academic studies, we mustn't underestimate the impact that the current lockdown has on the children's mental health.

There are online resources freely available that can help advise parents on the behaviours to look out for and the approaches to use to support the children at this challenging time.

Please try the following websites if you have any concerns in this area...

<https://www.annafreud.org/what-we-do/anna-freud-learning-network/coronavirus/>

<https://www.bps.org.uk/news-and-policy/bps-offers-advice-schools-parents-and-carers-help-children-through-uncertainty>

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/publication/childrens-guide-to-coronavirus/>

<http://www.childhoodbereavementnetwork.org.uk/covid-19.aspx>

Talking about Coronavirus

The spread of Covid-19 is an incredibly difficult issue for adults to get to grips with. It can be hard when listening to lots of different perspectives on its origins and its likely effects on our lives to make enough sense of what you are hearing to even begin explaining it to your

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children. The various websites listed above in the 'Mental Wellbeing' section provide a wealth of information that you might need to help support your children through this period. However, there are also two additional online resources that have been designed specifically to help parents with talking to their children about the coronavirus.

Elizabeth Jenner, Kate Wilson and Nia Roberts have produced a book that is available online called Coronavirus: A Book for Children.

This is available for all to read with their children at the website below...

<https://nosycrow.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Coronavirus-A-Book-for-Children.pdf>

In Northern Ireland a new online resource has been created to help parents talk to their children about Covid-19. It is written in an easy-to-explain format with child friendly illustrations. It can be found at the link below...

<https://emergingminds.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/scared-Gang-cant-go-out.pdf>

Just One Number and Parent Line

Norfolk's Children and Young People's Health Services offer the **Just One Number** service.

If you require any support with advice about your child, would like to contact a health professional or require assistance with changing medical appointments then you should call **0300 300 0123**. Just One Number is open between 8am and 6pm from Monday to Friday and between 9am and 1pm on a Saturday.

Parent Line is a text-messaging service for the parents/carers of any child aged between 0 and 19. For advice about your child's health or wellbeing, simply send a text message to **07520 631590** and a member of their team will get back in touch with you.

Parent Line is staffed between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday and between 9am and 1pm on a Saturday.

They are keen to stress that at this difficult time, their service isn't solely about medical issues. They are also there to support parents with mental health and emotional issues.

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And finally...

We hope that you are continuing to stay safe and well and that the children are working their way through the online activities that their teachers are providing.

We are all, of course, in the profession to teach the children face to face. That is when our staff are at their best. However, I am incredibly proud of the efforts that the staff have all gone to so that learning can continue online in these strange times. I would also like to thank all of those parents and children who have struggled to get to grips with Google Classrooms. I know that the staff have appreciated the interactions with the children.

Rest assured that if school reopens before the summer holidays, every effort to ensure that the site is completely safe for the children will have been undertaken.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Try