

Learning delivered with

Text Linked Curriculum



Hillcrest Primary School

TLC

Hillcrest Primary School

Headteacher: Mr Matthew Try

Hillcrest Downham Market

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12th February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

SCHOOL CLOSURE 2021 UPDATE 8: SCHOOL COMPLETELY CLOSED NEXT WEEK

Half-Term Holiday

Hillcrest Primary School will be completely closed to all pupils from Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February (inclusive) for the February half-term break. School will reopen to those signed up for the Emergency Childcare Provision on Monday 22nd February at the normal time.

There is then likely to be two final weeks of the Emergency Childcare Provision and Google Classroom remote learning provision before schools are expected to reopen on Monday 8th March although we are still waiting for final confirmation of this.

School Reports

With all of the school closures and time lost over the past year, the usual system of reporting the children's progress to parents has been thrown out of the window.

We had already changed the normal reporting process which would have seen the first official written report of the year going out near February half-term by bringing that first official report forwards to December 2020. This gave parents the first formal indication of their child's academic attainment since February 2020 when the last Mid-Year Report went home just prior to the first lockdown.

Our intention was to follow the Autumn Term report up with a Spring Term report towards the end of March so that parents could see the level of progress that had been made during the course of the term, even if the Autumn Term report had indicated that the children had fallen significantly behind as a result of the first lockdown.

However, the latest school closure period has further complicated matters. Even if the children return in full on 8th March it will not be possible to accurately report a current level for them with the inconsistencies that online learning creates between pupils along with the

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fact that the work completed online will not necessarily truly reflect their full potential and the standard of work that they may have produced with all of the resources and staff time available to hand at school.

Therefore, the next official report that parents will receive will come after the Easter break and will be a largely forward looking report. The report will share the results of baseline testing that will have taken place after 8th March and provide an analysis of what the children need to work on as their priorities for the term.

This will then be backed up in the usual way with the far more comprehensive Year-End report in July.

Parent Consultation Evening

As part of our reorganisation of School Reports and Parent Consultation Evenings following the first lockdown, we had already informed parents that there would be no Parent Consultation Evenings taking place this term as there normally would be at this time of year.

The next Parent Consultation Evenings will take place in the fortnight leading up to the May half-term. They are likely to be telephone meetings again unless the social distancing requirements placed upon us all have been completely removed by then.

PD Day – Monday 1st March

The school will be completely closed to all pupils including the Key Workers and Vulnerable Children on Monday 1st March. This is to allow for a staff training day preparing everyone for the likely, full return of pupils the following week.

No Screen Day – Monday 1st March

We hope that you have been enjoying today's No Screen Day and taken the opportunity to do something a little more practical and creative as opposed to sitting in front of a screen all day.

As we are closing for a staff training day on Monday 1st March, this will become our second No Screen Day with further information about the activities to come in due course.

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Remote Attendance

It was mentioned in a previous update that staff were now being asked to log the names of those children who submit their English and Maths work each day.

I thought we would share the data that has come from the first two weeks of recording it in that way.

Year Group	Percentage of Pupil's Submitting English Work for Marking		Percentage of Pupil's Submitting Maths Work for Marking	
	w/b 25 th Jan	w/b 1 st Feb	w/b 25 th Jan	w/b 1 st Feb
Reception	48%	55%	52%	57%
Year 1	56%	63%	58%	68%
Year 2	59%	67%	67%	69%
Year 3	62%	60%	66%	71%
Year 4	61%	62%	71%	78%
Year 5	64%	69%	73%	80%
Year 6	72%	68%	78%	77%

The difference between the amount of Maths work being handed in compared to the amount of English work is significant within most year groups. This is information that we are already using as part of our plan for a full return of children from 8th March and which may see there being more of a bias towards English teaching over Maths teaching when the children first come back.

The staff know how hard all of the parents are working to keep their children on track and what a struggle it must be. However, whatever parents are doing at home, it is working, as the submission of work improved across most year groups during the week beginning 1st February when compared with the previous week.

The longer the first lockdown went on, the harder it was to get children to engage with their Google Classroom, which is why the figures above are even more impressive. We are several weeks into this latest lockdown and the online participation is improving week on week. Although there are just two weeks left to go (possibly), it is important that these levels of participation continue so that the children return to school in the best place to carry on with their learning.

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SRB Update

We are delighted to announce that Cocksedges have been awarded the contract for building our new Specialist Resource Base. Some preliminary planning will take place on site during the February half-term break although the first visible signs of contractors on the field shouldn't come until the week beginning 22nd February.

Don't Forget to Inform School if Your Child Tests Positive for Covid

Even though most of the Hillcrest pupils are not in school at the moment, we still need to be informed if any of our pupils test positive for Covid during the school closure period.

Therefore, if any Hillcrest pupil, whether they are attending as part of the Emergency Childcare Provision or not, come down with symptoms and then test positive, please let the school know via office@hillcrest.norfolk.sch.uk or on 01366 388191.

We still have a duty to gauge the spread of the virus amongst our pupil population even though they may not be at school.

DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO THE EMERGENCY CHILDCARE PROVISION IF...

- *...they display a temperature of 37.6 degrees or higher;*
- *...they have a persistent cough (regardless of whether you believe this to be caused by something else);*
- *---they complain of a sudden and extreme loss of taste or smell.*

In the event that they are displaying these symptoms, you MUST get your child tested as they will NOT be accepted back into school until a NEGATIVE Covid-19 test has been received and their symptoms have subsided.

If your child develops any of these symptoms whilst at school, we will isolate them and then ask you to come and collect them.

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And Finally...

It feels as if this may be the final push with regards to remote learning and Key Worker provision. The second half of the Spring Term may start to feel more like normal, or at least the normal that we had become used to throughout the Autumn Term.

Thank you again for your continued efforts at home and although opportunities to socialise are limited at the moment, we do hope that you take the time to enjoy the half-term break and relish the opportunity to stay away from a computer.

Stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Try