

HILLINGDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Learning and Achieving Together

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Thursday 19th March 2020

Year 1 to Year 6 Nursery and Reception (Early Years) Mr O'Shea will send any additional information that is specific to Early Years

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are working hard to make sure that we have as much in place as possible to support the education of our pupils. The school will be closed at the end of the day for the majority of pupils on Friday 20th March. We will close at the normal time. This closure does not apply to children of key workers who need essential *childcare* or those pupils who need additional support; their parents can choose to access child care support after a discussion with us.

A questionnaire is being sent out regarding key workers. We ask that all parents complete it as soon as possible to enable us to plan for child care. Tomorrow, we will send out further information regarding child care for the week beginning Monday 23rd March. As we do not yet know how the Government is defining key worker, we are asking you to define yourself. Please say yes on the questionnaire if you believe yourself to be a key worker and you need childcare, as this will enable us to plan for next week. Once the definition is available we can check the information again. We know all information will be given to the best of your knowledge at this point.

All pupils who attended school on Tuesday 17th March have received a pack of work to complete during the school closure. We are keen to make sure pupils who are absent from school also have this pack. If you are able to safely deliver a pack of work to an absent child could you please let your child's class teacher know. Alternatively, parents who have not received the pack of work should telephone the school and we can arrange for you to collect if you are not self-isolating.

As well as this pack of information we are aiming to send out work via your child's Google Classroom (Year 1 to Year 6). We have been checking that pupils can gain access during class time but the real test is that they can log on at home. Please check that your child can log on. We are preparing information for parents to support their child but we are also keen that our pupils are independent learners rather than reliant on their parents. This will be very important if we have to close for more than two weeks, especially if parents have work commitments at home or are a key worker.



A member of the Elliot Foundation Academy Trust

Your child should also be able to show you how to access online learning through Bug Club, MyMaths, Times Table Rock Stars and Spelling Shed. Class teachers have been checking passwords in class but again please take the time to check that children are able to access them at home.

At present, we are working on the basis that pupils will do *at least* one to two hours of work at home, for each closure day. Pupils are welcome to do more. We would ask that parents mark any work completed in the CGP books. It is important that pupils have immediate feedback from marking so that they know what they are doing well and what they need to improve before moving on through too many pages.

Next week, teachers/staff will be preparing work for the Google Classroom. Pupils should start using this work from Thursday 26th March until Friday 3rd April when we break up for the Easter holidays. The Easter holidays take place from Monday 6th April until Friday 17th April. New work will be posted on the Google Classroom on Monday 20th April, the day we return from the holidays.

We understand that Key Stage 2 SATs (Year 6), Key Stage 1 SATs (Year 2), the multiplication check (Year 4) and the phonics screening (Year 1) have been cancelled. However, we will continue to do all we can to cover the curriculum and maintain the high standards in these year groups. We are mindful that our Year 6 pupils in particular need to be well prepared for secondary school.

Teachers/staff of the school will continue working unless they are ill. The focus of their work will be on providing work for pupils to complete at home. They will also make every effort to provide feedback to pupils on work completed via Google Classroom although we need to understand the practicalities of how this will work over the first few weeks. Staff will also be working on curriculum planning and development. There is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes of a school to ensure we have a high quality curriculum that enables pupils to achieve well in all subject areas. This work will continue during the school closure period.

Thank you once again for your support of the school and understanding during this challenging time. There is much uncertainty and still unanswered questions about the next few weeks, possibly months. As well as our pupils and parents, I am mindful of our duty of care to our staff and their families. At this point we do not know how many staff may become unwell. This may necessitate us having to change our plans, so we would appreciate your patience and flexibility when we have to adapt our plans.

I would like to thank our staff team, who have maintained their professionalism and enthusiasm during the uncertainty of the last few weeks, and our pupils, who are remaining calm and determined to continue working hard and do their best.

Yours faithfully,

Ann Bowen-Breslin Principal

Update:

We have cancelled swimming for Year 4 on Friday.

Reminder:

Parent Consultation meetings are cancelled. They will be rescheduled for the summer term.