



HILLINGDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Learning and Achieving Together

Principal: Mrs Ann Bowen-Breslin (MA)
Head of School: Ms Sabrina Kelly B.Ed (Hons)

Uxbridge Road,
Hillingdon,
Middlesex,
UB10 0PH

Email: hillprimary@hillingdonprimaryschool.org.uk
Website: www.hillingdon.hillingdon.sch.co.uk

Tel: 01895 590087

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Home Learning

Dear Parent and Carer,

Thank-you to members of our staff team who have been in school this week to provide an essential child care service.

The rest of the staff team are working hard at home to ensure we lead and support home learning. Thank-you to all our parents who are supporting their child as well as managing work/home responsibilities. Please do use the answer section to mark work in their CGP books so that any mistakes can be corrected before children move on too far and make too many mistakes.

Last week, we sent work packs home for the children to use. Yesterday we launched our Google classroom work. Although we would not have chosen this situation and we hope it ends soon, we are interested in how we can use technology in a positive way to enhance our pupils' learning and give them and us a glimpse as to how we may learn/work in the future. What we create now may be the beginning of different ways of learning and working. My hope is that our pupils will become more independent in their learning through this difficult time.

We do know from our years of experience that this way of working will suit some pupils more than others and parents will have very different experiences. So if your child enjoys home learning in academic subjects you will have a very different experience to parents whose child does not enjoy learning in this way. From experience, please do not make judgements about your parenting skills based on feedback from other parents! All of our children are different and you must do what is right for your own child.

The advantage of coming to school is that we can adapt our method of learning to suit particular children. This is more difficult when pupils are learning at home. This is why any learning provided by the Google classroom is encouraging our pupils to do the work rather than insisting they do it. Again, I know some parents would prefer us to insist but at the moment and for the benefit of all our families we feel that to insist at this point would cause more anxiety at an already anxious time. So our message at the present time is to do what you can as a family and we will support you in the way you wish to manage your family life.

As a minimum it is important that pupils read. All recent educational research has said that reading fiction and non-fiction books is the key to success. It is not a surprise but how many times do we complicate learning tasks when sitting and reading a book is more productive? So if your child returns to school having read all of Michael Morpurgo's animal books or knows all about climate change from a science book that will be an educational success.

I do appreciate that if pupils are at home for a longer period of time we may need to change our approach and expectations. We have considered carefully how we manage home learning and have timelines in place.

- Following on from our work packs, our Google classroom went live yesterday and our pupils should start accessing and using it now.
- The Easter break is from Monday 6th April until Friday 17th April so no new work will be set although pupils can continue with the work packs and complete Google classroom work. Pupils should continue reading.
- New work will be posted on Monday 20th April when we would have returned from the school holidays.

We will use next week (week beginning Monday 30th March) as an opportunity to monitor Google classroom and how it is working for children, staff and parents. We will ask ourselves what is going well and what we need to improve? We will use this information to plan how we go forward after the Easter holidays.

We appreciate the support our parents and families are giving their children during this period of school closure. Please be reassured that the staff team is doing all they can to support and we are continually thinking ahead.

We are thinking of you all and were clapping loudly last night for all our key workers.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann Bowen-Breslin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ann Bowen-Breslin
Principal