



HILLINGDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Learning and Achieving Together

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Tuesday 26th May 2020

Planning and Preparation for Schools *Possibly* Opening in June 2020 - waiting for a further announcement on Thursday 28th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your family remain well. Thank you for your support and kind messages during this difficult time, and especially for helping your child/ren to access their home learning.

Please do make contact if you have experienced difficulties so that we may support you and your child/ren. The school email (hillprimary@hillingdonprimaryschool.org.uk) continues to be monitored closely during working days and messages are passed on quickly to the relevant member of staff who will then contact you. It is being monitored during the half-term.

Class teachers have also been in contact with a number of families who may be experiencing difficulties regarding home learning. Please do respond and let us know more about your child's learning. It is now an expectation that all pupils should be learning at home and should be completing all the set tasks unless we have spoken with a parent and agreed differently. Thank-you to those parents who made contact just before the half-term break; we will be in contact after half-term.

We are continuing to develop our home learning and our aim for the last half-term of the school year is to enable students to speak with their teachers and classmates on Google 'hangout' now that our safeguarding policies are in place. We have taken time to develop these policies to enable them to be built into the curriculum, from September 2020. This improved way of working will be an important part of our *'Recovery Curriculum' and improved home learning/ home work.

Since the announcement about the possible return of pupils in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 there has been much consideration about the safest way forward. We have also considered how we continue to make the virtual school a viable alternative given that not all our year groups or

students may be able to return. Our challenge is to meet the needs of our students who return to school as well as maintaining our provision for students who remain learning at home.

We still await the Prime Minister's decision on the 28th May as to whether the five key tests he outlined have been met. Please do not make any assumptions about a return date until you have received an invite for your child to attend school. We will not open any classes until we are sure that the school is as safe as it can be. However, plans are being prepared for a return and the senior leadership and premises teams are working during half-term to make sure that we move it forward as quickly as possible. Please find an information sheet sent to parents today with the title:

Planning and Preparation for Schools
Possibly Opening in June 2020
Information for Parents - Tuesday 26th May 2020

This information outlines our present plans for students to return to school. Thank-you to all our parents and carers in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 who returned the questionnaire. We had almost a 100% return in a short period of time and this has enabled us to consider feedback from parents when planning. The information sheet identifies Year 6 as the first year group to return. During half-term, we will be sending a second questionnaire to Year 6 parents asking them to confirm whether or not their child will be returning to school. Year 1, Reception and Nursery will receive further information as soon as we are able to do so.

These plans may change as we receive more information and once students return we will be constantly adapting to the situation however the focus will always be on the health and well being of all members of our community. We hope these plans will enable parents to make an informed decision about whether they wish their child to return to school. This term, parents will not be penalised if their child does not return.

We are also very mindful of those students who may not return until September. We are already planning for September and how we may need to introduce those students back into school life. I am therefore delighted to inform parents that we have no resignations from our teaching staff so students and parents will be returning to familiar faces. Information about class teachers for 2020/2021 will be confirmed with parents as soon as possible.

During half-term, school remains open providing free childcare for our key workers. For safeguarding reasons the Google Classrooms are turned off. Optional home learning for the holiday was sent home last week. It was designed to be fun and to encourage our students to watch a film based on a book as we continue our mission to ensure all our students read regularly. Reading is the secret to academic success and all children enjoy a good story.

Monday 1st June and Tuesday 2nd June were Training Days and therefore a holiday for students. Given the present situation and in discussion with teachers it has been decided that teachers will continue to provide home learning to students on these days.

I know that this uncertainty makes it difficult for parents trying to plan and in particular working parents having to manage child care. I know uncertainty can be stressful for many. I know there will

be a range of opinions/thoughts among our community about how schools should move forward. Please be reassured that any decisions will be made based on the knowledge we have and in the best interests of our school community and that the staff team is working hard on behalf of our school community.

Yours faithfully,



Ann Bowen-Breslin
Principal

*'Recovery Curriculum' - a curriculum that takes account of the work that students have missed or not been able to fully access during COVID-19

Reminder / Extract from a letter on 11th May 2020

If as a result of the Prime Minister's announcements you need to access child care and you are not on our distribution list (established in the first week of the school closure following communication with parents) for child care please make contact with the school; please use the school's email address: hillprimary@hillingdonprimaryschool.org.uk. Mrs Child's (Welfare Officer) will then make contact with you to discuss your individual situation and your child care requirements. Apologies in advance as we will need to ask some detailed questions. We will need to establish your right to access child care and will ask for evidence that you are a key worker and are not able to work from home. We will also establish that there is no other adult in the family home who is able to provide child care.

Over the last eight plus weeks we have established an efficient booking system that once you have been given access will support you in booking child care each week. We have built in flexibility as we know that working arrangements can change but would appreciate you letting us know as soon as possible if your circumstances change so that we have the correct child to adult ratio on site.