



Hillside First School

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Dear Parents/Carers

Staff at Hillside are working together to begin to provide home learning for those that are now choosing to self-isolate and in the possible event of a school closure.

We are aware that many families will be facing difficult times ahead so learning through life experiences together may be a good way to cope. We recommend playing board games, jigsaws, learning new card games, art activities, gardening, talking or cooking (should ingredients be available!). Spending quality time together will be very important. Some fresh air and exercise outside, keeping within the social distancing requirements, is likely to be beneficial to all.

Most parents however, will also be concerned that their child's learning should not suffer during a break from school so where possible we would like you to focus mainly on reading, spelling, and maths.

To support you in this, we will be providing weekly home-learning activities which will be posted on the website and emailed to you on Fridays via parent mail. Little Owls will post suggested activities for the week ahead on Fridays on Tapestry in line with the rest of the school.

We will not be introducing new learning at this point in time but we would like children to repeat, practice, consolidate and remember previous learning and apply this in their writing and maths activities. This may be reviewed after the Easter break depending on government advice.

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The school website now has a page devoted to Covid 19 Home Learning on the parent drop down. On the website you will find copies of the weekly home learning for all year groups and links to useful, free websites that teachers may refer to in the home learning including free ebooks to read and games to practise maths and spelling or to research information.

We have put copies of your individual logins and passwords to Education City, Times Tables Rock Stars and Numbots in the home learning books.

Some of the home learning will be online, however, we are providing every child currently in school with a home learning book in which to complete some activities such as spelling and maths practise, book reviews, story writing, research, drawing etc.

We have put reading and spelling lists in the home learning books, alongside a writing mat which outlines the expectations of writing for your year group. These are also available on the website. We have also put copies of the National Curriculum for each year group online so you are able to see the expectations for the year your child is working in.

If you feel the activities are too challenging please feel free to look at the previous year group learning on the website, likewise, if you wish to challenge your child further, you may look at the year ahead.

We are hoping that all our staff will remain well over the next few months but obviously cannot guarantee this. Therefore we hope you will be patient with us and understanding should teachers find it difficult to communicate with you at times.

We hope that the coming weeks and possibly months are kind to you and your families and that you are able to keep safe and well.

Yours sincerely

Karen Pain
Deputy Head