



HIGH HESKET C of E SCHOOL (VC)

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Friday 1st May 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope you are all keeping well and that you managed to enjoy some of the beautiful weather we have been lucky enough to have recently. I am just writing to check in with you all as we move in to the month of May.

I am very grateful to the staff who have been preparing and uploading our Home Learning resources on a weekly basis which I hope you have found useful. Moving forward, these will be uploaded to the school website on a Friday so as you have them in advance of the upcoming week. If you have any questions about the resources, you are very welcome to use the homework@high-hesket.cumbria.sch.uk to communicate with the class teachers. As has already been mentioned, these are suggested activities and you are welcome to adapt these and use them in whatever way works best for the children and your family.

We now have Tapestry up and running and it has been lovely to see so many of you interacting with us, adding your own observations and enjoying the messages from staff. We are all missing the children incredibly and it has been so uplifting to see the children engaging in such a wide range of activities at home and to receive so many positive messages. Face to face contact is such a huge part of our normal school experience so it has been fantastic to use Tapestry to still have some communication with our wonderful children and families. We are also using our school Twitter feed to post updates and you may have seen me add a weekly challenge on both Twitter and Tapestry. There is no obligation to be involved in this, it is just for fun, and will hopefully be something the whole family can join in with if you wish! If you still haven't received your email from Tapestry to activate an account, please let us know and we will resend. Look out for an extra special message today to celebrate National Share a Story month!

I know that there has been much speculation about when schools will reopen in the media and I know many of you will be wondering what will be happening in the coming weeks. It is perhaps important to mention that, so far, we have received information about school closures and education updates through the government briefings at the same time as the public. At the moment, we are as unsure as you will be about the timescales for schools reopening and we hope to receive further information soon. I am sure that we are all on the same page that we would like to see our children back in school as soon as possible, so long as it is safe for staff and pupils to return and we can implement all of the necessary safety requirements.

These are certainly strange times for us as a school and we are having to adapt on a weekly basis to our new way of working, which I am sure is the same for many of you. It is also an unusual and unsettling time for the children and you may find that some children go through periods of feeling anxious or worried. It can be difficult to know how best to support them at these times but there are some useful resources for families on the Cumbria Safeguarding Children Partnerships website which has links to different resources and websites which may be useful. This can be found at <https://www.cumbriasafeguardingchildren.co.uk/LSCB/CSCP/covid19informationforfamiliesandparents.asp>. There is also a lovely bank of possible apps, books, downloads and websites on the CAMHS Resources website at www.camhs-resources.co.uk. I would like to stress that you are welcome to get in touch if there is anything at all that we can help with or offer support with. Mrs McCullough and myself are still monitoring the normal head@high-hesket.cumbria.sch.uk email address on a daily basis so please feel free to drop us a line if you need to.

In the meantime, please stay safe everyone and take care of each other.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Harvey