



## HIGH HESKET C of E SCHOOL (VC)

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Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents,

Unbelievably, we are already half way through this term and it won't be long until the half term break is upon us. The children have been working so hard and we are very grateful for the support you have given them in accessing Google Classroom and with their work. Unfortunately, we have all heard the recent announcement that primary schools will not be reopening fully after the half term holiday until 8<sup>th</sup> March at the earliest and I know this news will be disappointing for both our children and their families. We do have to keep in mind the reasons why the partial closures are in place and, hopefully, by following the guidance now and as many families staying at home as possible, schools can reopen fully as soon as it is safe to do so. We are all looking forward to the moment when all the children can return to their year groups as they are missed incredibly by us all!

At the moment our numbers within our Key Worker provision are manageable and we are able to support the families who truly have no other option. We are incredibly grateful for the sacrifices that families are making and the reduced numbers are enabling us to keep the children and staff who are on site as safe as possible. I know that the announcement of a longer home learning period will be frustrating for many of you as we all know that remote learning can be challenging at times. We all want the very best for our children but, having to balance work and personal commitments alongside the need to support our children at home is undoubtedly incredibly difficult. With the most recent announcements, it may be tempting to look towards the Key Worker provision as an attractive alternative for those of us whose children are becoming disheartened or who are missing their friends. I really do need to urge everyone that the Key Worker provision should only be accessed to enable Key Workers to work if they have no other option.

For many, the end to remote learning may now seem very far away. Please be reassured that we are incredibly impressed by what has already been produced by the children and the way that they have stepped up to their new challenges but, equally, there is no pressure from us to complete all tasks or to access everything that we provide. Please use Google Classroom in whatever way best suits your needs and there may be times when you feel that other activities may be more beneficial (i.e. going for a walk, baking, reading, drawing) as, sometimes, a break from the screen is just as important and can provide an opportunity to refresh and recharge.

### Remote learning provision

As you know, Google Classroom has become the centre of our remote learning provision and you will have seen that we have made a lot of developments since the first lockdown. We are keen to keep building on this and would love to hear your views on your experience so far. Although we all know that face to face learning is the ideal, the staff have been working hard to make the online communication with the children as meaningful as possible. I am sure they would love to hear any positive feedback you have to offer as well as knowing areas that are proving more challenging. Below is a link to a Google Forms questionnaire and we would greatly appreciate any responses you are able to offer so as we can reflect and adapt things for after the half term if we are able to do so. **The survey will close at 9am on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021.**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfmNqFsQU\\_NmPk6DiXweRoTcwrku3TIILQO2\\_fU2YNTtVwXKw/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfmNqFsQU_NmPk6DiXweRoTcwrku3TIILQO2_fU2YNTtVwXKw/viewform?usp=sf_link)

### Key Worker bookings for after half term

After half term, we are expecting Key Worker numbers to remain largely the same. If you are already accessing the provision and have a regular pattern of booking, we will assume that this will continue after half term unless you notify us otherwise. For those of you who use different days due to changes in shifts, please let us know your needs as much as you are able with as much notice as you can.



If you have not yet accessed the provision but feel that your circumstances have now changed, please first consider if you have another option. If you feel that you still require a place, please contact school on [head@high-hesket.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:head@high-hesket.cumbria.sch.uk) to explore availability. We may have to consider prioritising places if we do experience an increase in numbers as some of our bubbles are reaching capacity and spaces in some bubbles are limited. A large influx of numbers will not only impact on our safety within school but will also increase the risk of transmission, impacting on the likelihood of us having to close a bubble and therefore preventing essential workers from being able to work. It may also affect our remote learning provision as staff are involved in both remote learning and supporting groups in school which is currently manageable due to the smaller numbers in school.

### Thank you Mr Armstrong!

Some classes may have seen that Mr Armstrong, one of our parents, has kindly allowed us to use his online PE sessions as part of our Google Classroom work. You may even recognise a couple of his helpers! We are very grateful for his generosity with this and the 54DegreesSport activities are certainly keeping us on our toes! The videos do require access to YouTube so please ensure the children are supervised when accessing these at home.

### Lateral flow testing for staff

Lateral Flow testing is now being rolled out amongst primary school staff. This is designed to detect the virus within asymptomatic individuals and will hopefully enable us to continue to respond quickly to any potential cases within school. A positive result on a lateral flow test will mean that we may have to temporarily close a bubble at short notice whilst an individual seeks a confirmation PCR test. If this is returned as positive, the bubble will close for the full self-isolation period. If the test is returned as negative, the bubble will be able to reopen.

### School money

If you are able to, please log on to School Money to be able to see any outstanding payments for the Autumn term. We do appreciate that this is a difficult time for many families so please do get in touch if we can help in any way.

### White Rose Maths workbooks

For children not attending the Key Worker provision, new workbooks have now been sent out and it has been quite a mammoth task to coordinate! If you have a child in Year 1-6 and have not received a workbook by Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021, please do get in touch and we will organise a replacement. As the period of remote learning has now been extended, we may have to send out additional workbooks for after half term and will be in touch if this is the case. Some of you may have been provided with lined exercise books to work in if you chose to collect a pack from school earlier on in the term. Please note that these were optional and, if you find that you are coming to the end of a book, you are welcome to use ordinary paper as an alternative.

I will, of course, keep you updated as we find out more about a return to full school reopening. I would like to end with one final note of thanks as your support, patience and understanding is always so appreciated. Please look after each other and I hope it won't be too long until we have the children back in school.



Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Harvey