



## HIGH HESKET C of E SCHOOL (VC)

High Hesket, CARLISLE, Cumbria CA4 0HU TEL: 016974 73386

Head teacher: Mrs A Harvey

Email: [head@high-hesket.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:head@high-hesket.cumbria.sch.uk) Website: [www.high-hesket.cumbria.sch.uk](http://www.high-hesket.cumbria.sch.uk)

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents,

### REMOTE LEARNING INFORMATION

First of all, I would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our remote learning survey and we were thrilled to receive so many responses, allowing us to build a picture of current experiences within our community. We are very conscious that every family is managing their own set of circumstances so, unfortunately, it is impossible to balance the needs of every household. However, despite the challenging times, we were delighted to see that the responses we received were overwhelmingly positive and we are very grateful for the messages of support we received. This letter outlines the key results from the survey we conducted and also highlights some changes for after half term.

### Survey outcomes

The purpose of the survey was to see if there are areas that we could reflect on or adapt based on the majority consensus. We are pleased that the large majority of parents felt that the amount of work we provided was the right amount with a significant number also feeling that the amount of communication from staff was also the right amount. Most parents felt that the work was manageable, albeit with the children needing some support in several cases which is completely understandable.

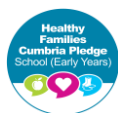
However, we are aware that the balance of working from home and supporting, at times, several siblings can make completing all activities difficult and we did see this reflected in some of the responses we received, with a few parents indicating the work felt like it was too much at times. The Department for Education have introduced a legal requirement that schools provide a minimum amount of work which equates approximately to 3 hours per day for Key Stage 1 and 4 hours per day for Key Stage 2. As a result, we are bound by this expectation but, as you will see later in the letter, have taken suggestions on board and have adapted some of our afternoon sessions to allow for more flexibility for families.

### Remote learning changes

We have taken on board the feeling that, for some, it can be difficult to work through all activities at times, especially when juggling multiple commitments, and the last thing we want to do is add pressure to an already challenging situation. We are also conscious that, on a normal day in school, we would be balancing our Maths and English teaching with wellbeing activities, outdoor learning, and the opportunity to build on wider skills. With this in mind, we would like to introduce a 'Wellbeing Wednesday' afternoon and a 'Catch up Friday' afternoon.

Your child's class teacher has produced a 'learning menu' grid of activities which develop the children's independence skills, mental health and self-confidence. The idea is that, on a Wednesday afternoon from after half term, the children will not be set a specific lesson on Google Classroom but will instead be directed to choose something from the activity grid. This could be something such as build a model, go for a walk, or could be something to consolidate their topic work. Families can choose what works best for them and we would recommend that the activity chosen on the Wednesday gives a break from the screen where possible. If the children would like to share what they have been doing with their class teacher on Google Classroom, they are very welcome but there is no expectation to do so. For families with more than one child accessing a device, you may wish to complete the wellbeing activities on different afternoons so as they have a screen free afternoon on a different day to their sibling. The 'learning menu' idea will be shared with the children during most class Zooms this week to help introduce the concept to each class and it will then start after half term. **The first 'Wellbeing Wednesday' will be on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021.**

In addition to 'Wellbeing Wednesday', we will also have a 'Catch up Friday' to enable families who would appreciate the time to catch up with work not completed during the week. On a Friday, only Maths and English tasks will be assigned and the third activity will be left open as a 'catch up' session. However, if your child has managed to complete all tasks and would like a third activity, they can then utilise the learning menu grid to select additional tasks. **The first 'Catch up Friday' will be this Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> February** to allow some time to complete any outstanding activities before we break up for the half term week.



## Live lessons

We did have a very small number of parents enquiring about the possibility of live lessons. Unfortunately, this is not something we are able to provide but you will see that we have significantly increased the number of pre-recorded videos this time around and are accessing the DfE approved materials, such as White Rose Maths and the National Oak Academy. It is incredibly difficult to replicate the quality of an in-school lesson over Zoom and we have had many parents comment on how they appreciate the flexibility of the current provision as they are not tied to specific times. We are conscious that live lessons would increase the pressure on families already struggling with internet access and devices and would require adults working at home to be available to supervise their child online as part of the safeguarding measures that would need to be put in place. In Maths, the White Rose Maths materials that are shared are exactly the same as we use within our normal in school lessons so a 'live' version would actually provide a very similar experience than they already have on Google Classroom.

## Zoom class social sessions – timetable changes

We will continue to provide a class Zoom catch up which have undoubtedly been the highlight of the staff's week and we hope the children enjoy it as much as we do! For Year 1-6 these will continue to take place every Wednesday although there have been a few adjustments to the timings as we were conscious that we had some overlapping sessions that made it difficult for siblings to attend each session fully. Early Years will also continue to have their sessions on a Tuesday and the timings for all year groups have been listed below. Please remember that we do need the children to be supervised by an adult during the session.

### *Tuesdays:*

9.30am – Reception

10.30am - Nursery

### *Wednesdays:*

09:15am - Year 6

10:00am - Year 5

10:45am - Year 2

11:15am - Year 4

1:30pm - Year 1

2:30pm - Year 3

Once again, I would like to reiterate my thanks to all our families who are managing to support the children whilst trying to juggle many different personal and work commitments. I know the staff are checking in regularly with our families but I do want to stress that we are all here and more than willing to chat anything through over the phone or by email if we can help in any way. Please also thank the children themselves who are working hard and having to adapt to a situation that is so unfamiliar for them. We are incredibly proud of how they are all doing and they deserve recognition for their resilience and ongoing perseverance. As always, please take care of yourselves and I hope that you all have an enjoyable half term next week.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Harvey