



Headteacher: Mrs V Giliker

30<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

### Headteacher's Update

I hope you and your family are well. As we enter our second week of stricter social distancing aimed to reduce the spread of COVID 19, I thought I would write to all our families to 'check in' and share a few things. The Government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, to protect the NHS and save lives. As you are aware, the school remains closed to the vast majority of our pupils. We are continuing to provide emergency childcare for those families who **have no other option** to use it, as they are critical workers. I have written to parents/carers of critical workers separately last Friday, outlining arrangements for the next few weeks.

### Staff Update

The staff have been organised into two teams, working alternate weeks in school. We have put in additional safety measures, including handwashing, regular cleaning and social distancing to protect children and staff whilst in school. We are trying to reduce the number of children and adults in school, so that we can prevent contact, reduce the spread of the virus, and in turn protect the NHS and those most vulnerable.

### Website and Home Learning

We are continually updating our school website with activities suitable for all pupils, as well as individual year groups. Please click on the link to access our website:

<https://www.harpurhill.derbyshire.sch.uk/school-closure-coronavirus>

You will find 4 weeks of work on the website: for the 2 weeks before Easter, and 2 weeks after. We will continue to update it as needed. Look out for a new section on Easter activities (coming soon). You will find a link to each year group and the email addresses of teachers on the website. When not in school, teachers are working from home, setting pupils' work and creating home learning activities. They are available to answer any questions you may have and keep in touch with families. Teachers can also be contacted by Dojo, Tapestry or Purple Mash, and they will respond using whichever method you prefer. You can send a photograph of your child or a piece of work if you wish, to share what you've been up to.

### Routines during school closure

During these unusual times, we all benefit from a clear routine. The following tips may be useful:

- Regular bedtimes, wake-up times and meal times.
- Routine time set aside for home learning. It is worth considering completing maths and English tasks in the morning, with topic activities in the afternoon. This would match children's normal routine and help to maintain consistency.
- Time allocated for fun, including exercise. It is important to take time to relax and get some fresh air (if possible). There is an area of sports activities, websites and personal challenges on the school website under 'Sport – Coach Danny'. He was in school last week, leading the Joe Wicks body coach workout for critical worker children and staff. I must let you know that I joined in with Joe Wicks myself this morning, although my legs are



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aching now! Please click on the link if you would like to join in:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/thebodycoach1>

- Please prioritise children's wellbeing and that of your whole family, above getting the school work done. Try to make the distinction between home learning and home schooling. We want you to enjoy your family time as much as possible.

### Online Safety

With children accessing much of their learning online, we have provided some useful links, for parents and carers to keep their children safe online:

- [Internet matters](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [Net-aware](#) - for support for parents and careers from the NSPCC
- [Parent info](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [Thinkuknow](#) - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - advice for parents and carers

### Support for families

If you are concerned about coronavirus, please follow the advice provided by the NHS and Public Health: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

The following page provides links to health and wellbeing support from Derbyshire County Council: [Staying safe during the Covid-19 pandemic](#)

### Free School Meals

If you are eligible for Free School Meals, you should have received a text or email with information about the food voucher scheme. Please contact [admin@harpurhill.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:admin@harpurhill.derbyshire.sch.uk) if you have not received your vouchers.

### 'The good stuff'

We have been posting photographs on the school Facebook page and will continue to use this to 'share the good stuff' during the closure. It's a great way for our Harpur community to stay in touch, and you can also share with grandparents or other family members who are self-isolating. I am sure seeing our youngsters will give them great pleasure. We will also share any other useful activities and websites via Facebook and the school website.

Sending you and your family our very best wishes at this difficult time.

Yours sincerely

V Giliker (Headteacher)



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