



Headteacher: Mrs V Giliker

Friday 17th April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you and your families are safe and well. As I am sure you will be aware, the Government have announced an extension to the 'lockdown' for at least another 3 weeks. On Monday, it would have been the start of our Summer Term, so I thought I would get in touch and update you with a few things.

Home Learning

Many of our families will have taken a break from the home learning over what would have been the Easter holiday. Monday 20th April would have been the start of the new term and I am sure you will be wanting to get back into the routine of home learning!

You will find work for the next 2 weeks on our school website: <https://www.harpurhill.derbyshire.sch.uk/school-closure-coronavirus>

Under each year group, you will find work for each class. There are 2 more weeks work outlined in the tables, as well as other suggestions and useful websites. Your child's teacher will continue to set work on the website, via email, Class Dojo, Google Classroom or Purple Mash. We will be adding to the website over the next few weeks to ensure there is sufficient work for the duration of the closure. There is also a general page, with activities suitable for different year groups:

<https://www.harpurhill.derbyshire.sch.uk/coronavirus-additional-activities>

You can continue to contact your child's teacher via email (addresses on the class pages of the website), Dojo, Tapestry or Purple Mash. Please feel free to contact them as much as you need to – whether it is to share a photograph of work or activities, to ask a question about the work, or just to say hi and stay in touch. We are more than happy to answer any questions and love to hear what the children have been up to.

Facebook

We posted a message with a photo collage from all the staff to our school community on our school Facebook page. Please take a look if you haven't seen it:

<https://www.facebook.com/Harpur-Hill-Primary-School-227694467565229/?fref=ts>



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We will continue to share the 'good stuff' on our Facebook page and post useful links to websites, as well as sharing photographs of children's activities and achievements at home and at school. Please continue to send photographs etc via email, Tapestry, Dojo, and we will post on the school Facebook page. Feel free to share this page and posts with grandparents and wider families – we know how much pleasure it gives people to see what the children have been up to.

Easter Eggs

We were contacted by the Buxton Street by Street group to say Morrisons have donated an Easter Egg to all our families. In line with most other schools, we will be giving these out when we return to school (we have checked the use by dates!). Some schools have chosen to allow parents/carers to collect their eggs from school. As the largest primary and nursery school in Buxton, with pupils from a wide area, this was not something we felt that we could do safely, considering the current government advice about social distancing. We will therefore be inviting Rob, our community champion from Morrisons, into school to say thank you, when we return to school.

FSM

Families who are eligible for Free School Meals should now have received vouchers through the scheme set up just before Easter. After some initial problems with the Government's 'Edenred' Free School Meal voucher scheme, we understand the issues are now being addressed. Fortunately, we were able to use an alternative scheme at the start of the closure, which has meant families received vouchers quite early on. If your circumstances have now changed and you think you may qualify for Free School Meals, you can check if you are eligible at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

Secondary School Transition

A few parents have asked about transition arrangements for Year 6 pupils. Next week, I will be contacting other local headteachers, including the secondary heads, to discuss plans to ensure that the transition to secondary school is as smooth as possible, despite these strange times. We will work closely with the secondary schools to set work, to be completed either at home, or at school in the summer term. We are fortunate in Buxton, having very close links with local schools and their staff who will work together to ensure children are fully prepared for the next stage of their education.



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New Starters

Families of children due to start in Reception in September should have received confirmation of places from Derbyshire School Admissions. We will be working closely with feeder Nurseries, and of course, our own Nursery to ensure children are ready to start Reception in September and their families are provided with information. Depending on when we return to school, we hope to arrange taster visits for new starters to help with a smooth start in September.

Finally

These may be unusual times; however, my staff and I will continue to work hard to ensure that we remain in contact with our families who are at home, as well as providing child care in school for the children of key workers. Please do stay in touch with us during this time by contacting your child's teacher. If you have any general questions or queries, please contact us on admin@harpurhill.derbyshire.sch.uk

Take care and stay safe.

Kind regards

Mrs Giliker



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