

Learning is fun at
Park Hill Infants' School



5th May 2020

Dear Parents

We hope you are safe and well. We endeavour to write to you every two weeks as a way of keeping in touch and because we miss you all!

As you know, the school remains open for key worker children and for vulnerable children. The school is providing childcare for this small group of children as well as a space for them to complete their home learning, which you have all received for your children. As the staff are on a rota system, there are different members of staff in daily, to supervise these children. There is no new learning being taught, so please rest assured that your child is not missing anything by being at home. The government guidelines at this time remain that the safest place for your child to be is at home.

Home learning will continue this week via email, with the option to collect hard copies should you wish. In addition, teachers are beginning to record online video demonstrations of new topics, or of concepts that can be trickier for children to grasp. Mrs Smith has recorded one this week for Reception on halving. The link has been provided in the Reception home learning pack. We are looking to expand this to other year groups where needed.

Last week we introduced the expectation that children submit one piece of written work a week to their teacher. Some parents have told us that this has been useful in order to support their child's writing at home. Please remember that we do not expect perfect work from the children. It should be their own work, edited by themselves, and then submitted to the teacher. This is what would happen in the classroom. The teacher will then offer feedback based on their expectation for your child and linked to their target.

Please be aware that teachers are inundated with email attachments and will only be able to give informative, written feedback on the one piece which has been explicitly noted within the home learning pack. Please also remember to supervise your child while accessing the suggested web sites and online learning platforms to ensure their safety when using the internet. Remember to submit the work by Friday 3.30pm each week.

Reception learning tasks should be submitted to: reception@parkhill-inf.croydon.sch.uk

Year One learning tasks should be submitted to: year1@parkhill-inf.croydon.sch.uk

Year Two learning tasks should be submitted to: year2@parkhill-inf.croydon.sch.uk

Please accept our thanks and appreciation once again for all that you are doing to keep home learning going. We know that everyone is doing their best and we know that this is difficult. Please do not worry if you do not manage to complete everything. Every little helps!

Whilst home learning is an important part of maintaining a good routine and keeping the brain active, staying healthy and happy must remain our priority. The Local Authority have provided us with a document that we would like to share with you, outlining many avenues for Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health (EWMH) Support during Covid 19 for Children, Young People and Families. We have attached this document for your information. If you require support from the Headship Team, remember you can email us confidentially using the email address headshipteam@parkhill-inf.croydon.sch.uk

Please also keep yourself up to date with the latest Government [guidance](#).

There continues to be speculation within the media as to when schools might be able to reopen and what this might look like in terms of a phased return for groups of children. We are planning for various scenarios and timelines and will update you when we have further information.

All of us will have been changed by the lock-down experience and it will undoubtedly take time for members of the school community to adjust to the 'new' normal. We will need to recognise this as we prepare to open to more children when it is safe to do so. We will pay particular attention to the areas listed below:

- Re-establishing routines

For many the re-establishment of routines will be difficult. This will not just be for school routines; it will also be for those basic daily life routines, such as sleep and meal times.

We will need to allow a period of adjustment and be aware of the impact of trying to re-establish these routines for staff, parents and children. It will take time to readjust to the rhythm of school life again.

- Re-establishing expectations

We are aware that members of our school community will have had very different experiences during the lock-down. Some have been in school throughout, though for them school will have been a very different place. The majority of children have been at home and each of them will have had their own experience. It will take time to re-establish and re-learn the expectations of school behaviour and learning.

Sadly, some families may have suffered bereavement and we will all need to act with kindness, care and compassion in order to support one another.

- Differences in learning across families

There will be a huge range in the learning children have engaged in while not in school. As we have stressed from the outset, learning from home is not the same as learning in school. Rest assured all children are in the same position. We are committed to not only focusing on children's mental health and well-being, when they return, but also ensuring that our adapted 'recovery curriculum' allows all children to re-establish learning routines in a timely and sensitive manner.

It may give you some reassurance to know that the Department for Education, (DfE), have announced that formal assessments have been cancelled for the academic year 2019-2020. Therefore there will be no

assessment submission at the end of our Reception year, no National Phonics Screening check in Year One, and no Key Stage One SATs for this current academic year.

We are in the process of planning a 'recovery curriculum' for as long as needed on our return. This will focus on:

- ☺ Relationships – Many of the relationships that were thriving, may need to be invested in and restored. We need to plan for this to happen, not assume that it will.
- ☺ Community – We must recognise that curriculum will have been based in the community for a long period of time. We need to listen to what has happened in this time, understand the needs of our community and engage them in the transitioning of learning back into school.
- ☺ Transparent Curriculum – Our children / parents may feel like they have lost time in learning. We will be clear with children and parents as to how we are addressing any gaps and working with our families to heal this sense of loss.
- ☺ Metacognition – In different environments, children will have been learning in different ways. It is vital that we make the skills for learning in a school environment explicit to our children to reskill and rebuild their confidence as learners.
- ☺ Space – To be, to rediscover self, and to find their voice following these unsettling times. It is only natural that we all work at an incredible pace to make sure all learners are not disadvantaged and that they rediscover their love of learning.

We are aware that usually in this term, we would be making you aware of transition arrangements, both for children coming into our Reception in September, and for our Year Two children who will be moving to Park Hill Juniors in Year Three. Rest assured this is very much in the forefront of our minds and plans are afoot! If you have a child who is due to join us in September, you will have received a welcoming letter explaining our plans for this process. We are liaising with the Junior School to ensure the best possible transition from Year Two to Three.

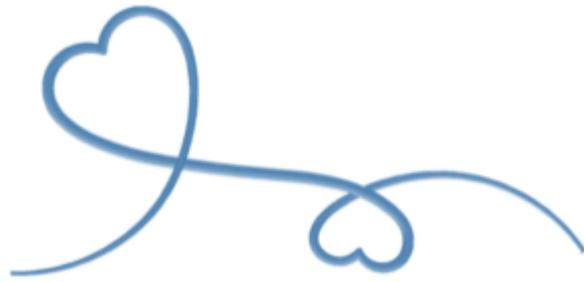
Meanwhile you can continue to follow the development of our 'positivity fence' on Twitter, [#parkhillinfants](#), showcasing uplifting art work created by the key worker children that we have in school. Useful local information can also be found on our page.

We can't thank you enough for all the positive comments, emails and communications that we have received over the last few weeks from you. Your overwhelming support is greatly appreciated and shows what a fabulous, cohesive school community we are. Many have commented, and we agree, that we are like family, who stick together in hard times. Long may this continue!

Stay Happy and Keep Safe,

Ms J Charman and Mrs Parry





A message for our sparkly children ... (please read to them if they are unable to read it).

Dear Honey-Pies!

We hope you are staying safe and happy and that you have been enjoying having a chat with your teacher each week. They have told us that they have loved speaking to you and hearing your voices!

We hope you are well and happy and that you are enjoying your home learning. We hope that you are managing to get out in the sunshine if it is safe for you to do so.

We are busy at school making plans for when you come back. We have lots of fantastic ideas to make sure that when you return, you will feel happy and safe.

We are still waiting for the Prime Minister to call Mrs Per to tell us when it is safe to come back. Ms Rae is busy checking the answerphone to make sure that we haven't missed a message from Mr Johnson! As soon as we hear anything we will let you know – we can't wait to see you all!

Mrs Clarkson noticed that the naughty candle has been exploring the school again! Miss Hulet saw him the other day trying to drink her coffee that was on her desk!

We have been checking that he is still being good and that he only goes out of school for his daily exercise. He has been spotted skipping in Park Hill Park! We have seen him a few times today around the school. Can you guess where he is?



Remember to send one piece of your writing each week so your teacher can see your fantastic work.

We miss you and send you lots of love,

Ms Charman and Mrs Parry

