

Hollywood Home Learning News - March / April



Good Morning!

Can I start by saying how brilliantly the Hollywood School community handled the early warnings about Covid 19 and then the news of school closure. Teaching your children to hand wash, explaining the changes that were coming and supporting each other and the staff team. Thank you!

It has now been close to a week since we have seen each other and the world / our worlds have changed completely. That will take some time to adjust to and some of our families are managing that very differently and that is a good thing.

Some families will just need a minute - to sit down, have a play, get some sleep and to work out who will get the milk and the bread.

Some families need routine - they are trying to order and plan to create a feeling of security.

Some families have others to care for and need to prioritise looking after their friends and family.

Some families are still trying to balance work and family life in tighter circumstances.

Whatever you are doing at the moment, it will be the right thing for your family, at the moment.

What about the staff team?

We are all trying to adjust too. At the start of this week we had to meet in school to map out what learning would look like across the coming weeks and months.

We also have to adjust to not meeting up five days a week. The school community, our workplace, plays an important and valuable part in each of our lives.

We have been asked to volunteer, if we are able, to run Key Worker Community Hubs. Childcare facilities for NHS and key workers children.

For some of our team this work starts next week. It will involve shift work as hubs will be open from 7am to 8pm— eventually including weekends and holidays.

The aim is to balance being in contact with our pupils and families; with supporting others and contributing to a wider community.

The BLOG

We took the decision in school to use the blog as our main point of contact with pupils and families. Hollywood Hullabaloo is a well established blog (running since 2012) and our P4-7 pupils know how to post on it.

Our P1-3 pupils have less experience and have mainly blogged as a class with the teacher, I am sorry we did not have time to make our younger pupils and our parents more familiar with the blog before we closed.

We have done the technical stuff (I can hear P5-7 giving me a row as I tell them off for over using this word!) but appreciate that for most parents the blog is something you have looked at but have not been asked to add to in the past.

GLOW can be a moody beast and it doesn't always behave the way it should. Please not get frustrated or angry with it instead email the school office or leave a message on the school answer machine and we will do our best to get you sorted. Reece Walker's mum and I had an amusing Glow Blog social distancing workout yesterday :-)

Expectations

Staff - All staff are working from home. They are expected to support parents with home learning by providing a range of activities, ideas and resources. They will be expected to provide (after the Easter break) progressive and challenging learning to keep our pupils moving forward. They are expected to communicate with pupils through the blog and potentially e-mail.

Head teacher - I am expected to stay in contact with pupils, staff and parents. We need to know that everyone is safe and can get us if they need to. I am expected to ensure that we continue to provide learning and teaching opportunities.

Parents - parents are expected to stay in touch with the school. Posting a blog with your child is the easiest way to do this. You can also e-mail the school office and call the school to leave a message. I will drop into the school office to make contact to answer questions and queries—or just to have a natter.

Home Learning

We know at school that children only learn when they are safe, happy and included. This is the same at home. Your children will need time to adjust to being at home. And every child will take a different length of time to adjust. For some it is a fun game at the moment... Some are missing their friends and feel very emotional about it...Most are tired because we had just about reached the end of a very long term.

Take it easy - go gently. We have to be able to keep this learning journey at home going forward steadily for a long time. Together.

I have asked my staff team to provide a range of activities on the blog in the Home Learning Pages. We have posted a wide variety of activities to give you choice NOT because we expect even half of them to be undertaken but to give you choice!

You will know what you and your child are ready to go forward with this week.

Choose:

To do some spelling and maths homework as that is a routine at home already.

To get out in the garden because the weather is lovely and the weeds need pulling out.

To build a Lego model.

To have big discussions about world events.

CHOOSE the pace and activities that are right for you and your children.

Then Blog it!

We ask that you write a post on the blog NOT to check up and judge what you are doing!!

We ask that you write a post on the blog so that we know that you and your guys are well and with us.

HOLYWOOD HULLABALOO

A huge thank you to all parents and pupils who have managed to get on to our blog this week. It is like a slice of Team Hollywood online. It has a real community feel. I know that it has cheered the staff team up this week reading about home baking, seeing pictures and frog spawn. I know that it has helped some of our pupils to feel more positive as they have read about what others have been up to or 'bored!' what we've not been up to!

I feel sure that over the coming weeks the need to be reminded of our unique and fun learning environment will become even more important. So keep blogging.

These are just some of the things you have been blogging about this week... Go on and find out what they are all about. You might find yourself trying them out!



It is great that you guys are in touch through social media but remember we can only solve school issues if you make contact and let us know about them.

Please get in touch asap if you are having trouble with the tech and we will help... Or we can find another way of keeping in touch with you! Let us help!