

Hythehill Primary School Newsletter

SHINE with High Hopes, Health and Happiness



SUCCESS - HONESTY - INCLUDED - NURTURED - EFFORT

Covid-19 April 2020 Update

EMAIL :- admin.hythehillp@moray-edunet.gov.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

Good morning everyone.

Welcome to a new week of home learning. I hope you all made the most of the good weather last week. This week looks a little more variable to get out and about.

HOME LEARNING

We are continuing to use two digital platforms to share the home learning

1.) Dojo

2.) Microsoft teams - GLOW

This week's learning will be posted by class teachers on Glow and Dojo, in the form of a grid. There will be Literacy, Numeracy, Health and Well-being learning experiences, ICT, Art, French and Topic related activities. Please remember these activities are a guide and some children may not complete them all. I recommend that you focus primarily on the Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Well-Being activities. Some activities have a worksheet to provide guidance. You do not need to print the sheet as written answers can be completed in the jotter provided. New jotters will be available later in the week for collection from Hythehill porch at a set time. This time will be emailed out.

HEAD TEACHER CHALLENGES

I posted on Dojo, Teams and Facebook a couple of challenges last week

- 1) Create and send a card to Captain Tom Moore for his 100th Birthday
- 2) Create a Stay Safe poster for the Lossie Fire Station

Well done to all those who took part in these activities. Please keep sending your cards to Captain Tom Moore at

Captain Tom Moore
c/o Post Officie Limited,
67 Bedford Road
Marston Mortaine
Bedfordshire
MK43 0LA

and posting your pictures through the first station letter box for their window display.

Look out for this week's challenge later in the week.

PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

I am keeping a record of engagement by all families. Please check-in with the teachers on Dojo and Glow at least twice a week. Teachers are keen to check-in with you and to keep positive relationships going. For those collecting a paper pack a record is also being kept. When collecting your new packs you can return completed ones.

For parents who did not or who are still unable to engage in either Dojo or Glow, and have not collected a paper pack a member of the Senior Leadership Team will be in touch to see what we could do to support you. We will be making calls from Wednesday onwards between 9.00am-3.00pm or you can contact us at the hub on 01343 812251 (Wed-Fri).

Teachers have been informed that engagement with Glow/Dojo is to be between 9.00am and 3.00pm, queries outwith this time will be addressed the following day or by the Senior Leadership Team, where possible.

It is **important** that we all respect teachers' protected non-teaching time, as many of our teachers have children who also require home educating, caring duties for parents etc.

REPORTING TO ALL BY ALL

You will be familiar with our weekly 'Reporting to Families'; where you see your child's learning from the week, a possible teacher comment on achievement and next steps, pupils' comments on their own learning and an opportunity for you to comment in return on their learning journey.

We know that many of you have given quick feedback in various forms. To keep all feedback together we have created a simple sheet, so that next steps in planning learning experiences remotely can take into account the feedback given and support you at this time.

We have created a simple feedback sheet for you and your child to complete together and return every Friday – electronically or in the paper pack when collecting your next one from the hub, week beginning 4th May 2020.

Please complete the sheet and send it back to the class teacher.

This can be

- an uploaded photo on Dojo messages
- Uploaded document or photo to teams
- An email attachment through the glow email
- Returned in the paper pack.

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parent and your children do not make the rules themselves!

OUR COMMUNITY

St Gerardine School continues to be the local hub for Keyworker children – St Gerardine Hub. A number of Hythehill teachers and support staff are working at the hub on a rota basis. As you can imagine this is an additional commitment, on top of the virtual teaching of their own class. Therefore on the days that they are teaching at the Hub they will not be engaging with the class Dojo or Glow team; however, I realise that contact with a teacher is important at this time and so all Dojo classes and Glow teams have at least two class teachers, as well as Support for Learning staff and the Senior Leadership Team as part of the learning team.

If you have become eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) through accessing various benefits, you should be receiving an email with vouchers on a fortnightly basis. If you have not received your vouchers please email education@moray.gov.uk This does not include the P1-3 offer. Do not email the school as we don't have access to the vouchers.

Moray Food Plus as also making and delivering parcels from Lossie Baptist Church on a Thursday and Friday each week. If you need a parcel or know someone who would benefit from a parcel at this time please message me on Dojo, GLOW teams or the school admin email.

EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE

'Moray Educational Psychology Service know that school staff are working hard to provide quality information to parents to help their children's wellbeing and education. As these are unusual and challenging times we would like to provide a wider service to families to help support this work. If you would welcome the opportunity to chat about any social, emotional or educational concerns about your child with our link Educational Psychologist [Craig Fowler](mailto:Craig.Fowler@moray.gov.uk), they can be contacted via email on craig.fowler@moray.gov.uk or a telephone message can be taken on 01343 550999. Parents/carers that already have, or have had, involvement with the service can, of course, make contact in the same way.'

Remember be kind to yourself and please engage with us.



By doing this you are supporting your child in the next steps of their learning. We realise that children are engaging in different ways and different levels, so honesty helps us help you. Again, engagement with this will be monitored.

We fully appreciate all you are doing and I appreciate all the hard work my staff are doing to deliver a varied curriculum at this time.

TIMETABLING ACTIVITIES

Please continue to set out a simple routine which allows your children to see learning times and family time as separate activities – playing, electronic devices, helping around the house, watching TV. etc. I recommend

1-2 hours a day for P1-3

2-3 hours a day for P4-7 - older children or those who wish to do more should not be discouraged.

Please remember it is not possible to replicate the school environment at home. These are just suggestions to try to help you with a routine in the day. If the situation is stressful, please take time out and ask the class teacher for reassurance if you feel it is appropriate or email admin and your concern will be passed directly onto me for further support.

Children are often more resilient than we think and they will bounce back when things return to normal. School will take the children's learning from where it is and I am confident in the abilities of my staff in supporting your children as they catch up and so not miss out in the longer term.

OUT AND ABOUT

Please continue to access the outdoors, fresh air regardless of the weather is a great healer. If you are lucky enough to have a garden, please encourage your children to make use of it every day. I would also encourage all of our families who are well to take the permitted daily exercise as a family unit. We are lucky to live in such a beautiful part of the world and a walk along the beach or in the woods each day is definitely good for everyone's physical and mental health. Please just remember to follow the advice and stay at least two metres away from others. Please do not allow your children to meet friends to play in the garden – this is not permitted.

SCREEN TIME

I do have one continued plea that is to limit screen time for ALL children. I realise that as time passes and more time is spent at home this can become a challenge. If children spend the coming few weeks/months on their screens for very long periods of the day, they will find going back to school extremely difficult. Decide as a family what your rules are. Remember, you are the