



Hythehill Primary School Newsletter

SHINE with High Hopes, Health and Happiness

SUCCESS - HONESTY - INCLUDED - NURTURED - EFFORT

Covid-19 April 2020

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

Good morning everyone.

As you will be aware from the news last week, the lockdown continues for a further three weeks. I realise that there has been a lot of press speculation about schools reopening; however, at this time we continue to provide virtual learning and where applicable paper copies. If your child is attending St Gerardine Hub they will be provided with a paper copy.

HOME LEARNING

The paper work packs sent home before the holidays were for the last week of term and last week; however, I am aware that some of you managed to have a go at a few online activities posted on Microsoft Teams, on Glow and also on Dojo by various teachers.

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 do not feel compelled to do all the activities suggested. I recommend that you focus primarily on the Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Well-Being activities. Some of these activities will reflect homework tasks that have come home all year. 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.

Please check-in with the teachers on Dojo and Glow at least twice a week. Teachers are keen to check-in with you and keen to keep positive relationships going. For parents who did not or were unable to engage in either Dojo or Glow last week a member of the Senior Leadership Team has been in touch to see what we could do to support you at this time. If we didn't reach you can contact us tomorrow, Monday or Tuesday from 9.00am-3.00pm on 01343 812251.

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.

TIMETABLING ACTIVITIES

Please try 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. You may also find that some children are resistant but in a few weeks are more prepared to have a try. 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.

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

I am also certain that fresh air and the outdoors are great healers. 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.



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SCREEN TIME

I do have one continued plea that is to limit screen time for ALL children. 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 parent and your children do not make the rules themselves! I am happy for you to say something along the lines of "Mrs Campbell has said that you must not be on your screens all the time and it has to be limited."



OUR COMMUNITY

As many of you are aware St Gerardine School has been turned into the local hub for Keyworker children – St Gerardine Hub. A number of teachers from across Lossie ASG volunteered their time during the holidays to support the hub, and as we return for term 4, I am proud to say that a number of Hythehill teachers and support staff will be working at the hub. 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 are a key worker needing to access the hub, please remember that it is only if there is not responsible adult at home to care for your children. If your circumstances have changed and you are now classed as a key worker you can apply for a place using the following link https://vpn.moray-edunet.gov.uk/sslvpn/PT/https://webmail/owa/redirect.aspx?REF=SxiQBA7dvCrCQWv3AMxiFjIXnrQH6Tjgs77NkV9gaodWoc6Kct_XCAFodHRwczovL29ubGluZS5tb3JheS5nb3YudWsvZm9ybS9hdXRvL2tleXdvcmtlc9jaGlsZGNhcmVfcmVx

If you are 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 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, 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 I'll continue to email letters and core information to you.