



# Hythehill Primary School Newsletter

SHINE with High Hopes, Health and Happiness

SUCCESS - HONESTY - INCLUDED - NURTURED - EFFORT

Covid-19 May 2020 Update

EMAIL :- admin.hythehillp@moray-edunet.gov.uk  
<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/my/hythehill/>

Dear Parents/Carers,

Good morning everyone.

Welcome to a new week of home learning. We are providing two weeks of learning this week, as the school, including home schooling, will be closed on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May and Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May, and Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May and Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May**. The hub at St Gerardine will continue to operate on these days.

## REOPENING OF SCHOOLS

There continues to be uncertainty about when schools may re-open and what that might look like. At this time, I do not know any more about the situation but I do regularly attend virtual head teacher meetings. Please be reassured that when I do know more, I will communicate that with you and will plan how best to action the return for Hythehill children. The most important thing you can do is to reassure your children if they do express any concerns and remind them that, although they may be finding some things hard, this is the same for all children at this time.

## 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, again, 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 CHALLENGE

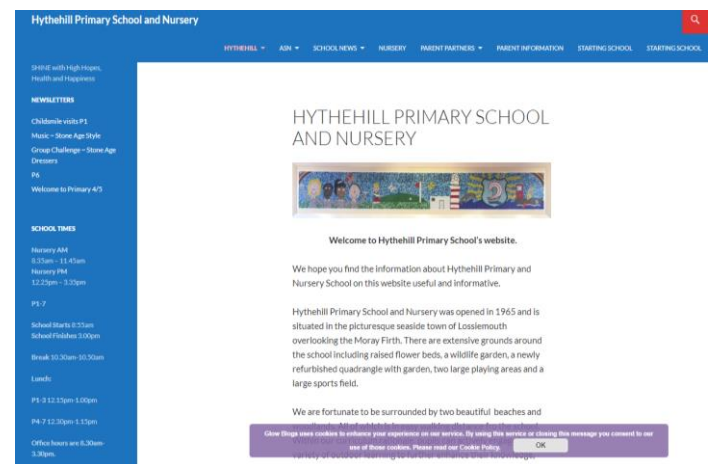
**VE Day Celebrations:** Next week (beginning 4<sup>th</sup> May) with celebrations for Victory in Europe (VE) Day taking place Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May celebrating at the end of the second world war. At this time of a world-wide pandemic, this is particularly poignant. Teachers will be putting a special VE Day post on Dojo with a variety of activities. I would like to thank Hopeman Primary who have shared these activities with us and across the ASG.

My challenge for your family this week is can you enjoy the VE day celebrations with a tea party or garden party

with fun and games. You can post your photos to me on dojo. I am linked to all the classes. I will collect the photos to put together a celebration newsletter and I will post them on Facebook.

## TRANSITION

Transitions happen across the school as well as at key points, whether your child is starting school in P1, transitioning between classes at Hythehill or moving up to secondary school, we will be planning their transition. It is still very early for transition activities, which do not normally take place until June for the vast majority of children. For those starting school, Mrs Blackhall and Mr Stewart have updated the school website for P1. Please log on to <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/my/hythehill/> and click on the tab at the top of the page called STARTING SCHOOL



If your child is not yet talking about transition to you, I would advise you not to raise this just yet. If your child is expressing worries, I would urge you to reassure them as best you can. Remember that the differences this year will be the same for everyone. Children are often more resilient than we think! We need to be very careful not to convey our own anxieties to our children. Please message your class teachers for further support.

## HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Every year when we start in August, staff take several weeks to get to know their class and build their class community, through creating a class charter. We will do the same when we move on next session. In addition, a focus on our School Action Plan will be Mental Health and Wellbeing, we started this with Live'n'Learn in February. They came to the school for a whole day input with all children and an evening workshop with parents. Following the in-service days, I will be putting out a questionnaire for you and to your child to complete about your child's wellbeing and how they have coped through this extraordinary time. This will allow us to pick up children who have found it particularly tricky and to try to support them with any difficulties they may be



# Hythehill Primary School Newsletter

**SHINE** with High Hopes, Health and Happiness

**SUCCESS - HONESTY - INCLUDED - NURTURED - EFFORT**

**Covid-19 May 2020 Update**

having, through using the Nurture aspect of our School Action Plan.

## **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 in touch to see what we could do to support you. We will be making calls on Monday and Tuesday

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 continue 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 have received your Reporting to All by All sheet last week and this week. Please take some time to give feedback to us regarding how the learning is going at home. This form will allow us to keep all feedback together, so that next steps in planning learning experiences remotely can take into account the feedback given and support you at this time.

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.

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.

## **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 parent and your children do not make the rules themselves!

## **OUR COMMUNITY**

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](mailto: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](mailto: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.