



We are an inspiring learning community with high expectations, where all feel safe and happy and everybody has the opportunity to unlock and realise their potential

Dear Families,

As our first week of whole school remote learning for 2021 draws to a close, I want to thank you all for your support and commitment to the teamwork that is going to be vital over the coming weeks, as we all work together to help the children continue to make progress. We know from past experience that we are in this together and that we can do well if we support and encourage each other during what can only be described as an extremely challenging time.

We understand that everyone's circumstances are different and unique. Some of you will be juggling working from home with childcare and supervision of learning. Others may have multiple children trying to access limited devices. Many of you may be self-isolating or unwell. Whatever your individual challenges, please know that we are here to help and support you throughout this pandemic. Please do contact the school office who will do their very utmost to provide information and signpost support.

It is clear from Gavin Williamson's address to Parliament that laptops will be coming through to schools. However, what is also clear is that at present, these devices are prioritised for secondary school children. As such, we have been advised that we will not be able to access new devices for at least a couple of weeks, and this may take somewhat longer. We have been preparing for such an eventuality and, in school, we have some devices and laptops available for families to use at home. If you believe that your child needs a device to be able to continue their home learning, please contact Mrs Luciani via the school office and she will be happy to organise this for you. In addition, as part of our preparations last term, we have also secured mobile data SIM cards which may be useful to those of you who are relying on your mobile phone supplier for access to the internet. Again, do please contact Mrs Luciani if you would like to access a free mobile data SIM to support your child's learning at home. We will also be able to access additional free mobile data from suppliers via the Department for Education website.

I know from talking to the children, that many of you have PS4s and XBoxes at home. You may not be aware that Google Classroom and the remote learning offer can also be accessed via these devices. If you need a USB keyboard and / or mouse to facilitate this, please contact the school office who will be happy to organise this for you. Instructions for using your XBox or PS4 to access remote learning will be placed on the website for you to refer to.

Thank you for the many positive emails and telephone calls we have received regarding the remote learning offer. Our aim is to ensure that children, as far as possible, are able to access the work as independently as possible, minimising the support you are required to provide. We are looking at ways to enrich this further by live-streaming dedicated support where it is clear that children are finding a particular topic or concept more challenging. I know many of you are keen for complete live-streaming of lessons. I want to reassure you that the Education Endowment Foundation has released its findings that there is no benefit to live-streaming when compared to the high quality recorded lessons that we are currently embedding in our remote learning diet. As a school, we continue to investigate the possibility of some live-streaming, for example story-time, to ensure that effective home-school links continue to be maintained however, in line with other primary schools across the local authority, full live-streaming will not form part of our current offer.

I know that you will be aware that school staff are not immune from the virus and we currently have a number of staff at home who have tested positive, are isolating because they live with someone who has tested positive, or who are recovering from symptoms. This is presenting additional challenges but the staff team have been absolutely fantastic, stepping in to support and ensure continuity of remote learning provision. Unfortunately, it has meant that we have been unable to offer wrap-around care in terms of Breakfast Club or After School Care.

From next week, in line with Local Authority guidance and advice, we will be reopening Nursery for all children, and not just those of key workers. Our risk assessment for Nursery has been updated and reviewed to ensure that effective mitigations continue to be implemented. Please advise the school office whether you intend for your Nursery child to return at this point in time.

In order to facilitate home learning, our 'stationery' store will be open every Monday from the Breakfast Club entrance between 9.30 – 10 so that you can pick up paper, pens etc to support your child's learning at home.

From next week, I will be hosting a fortnightly headteacher livestream question and answer session - the first session will take place on Wednesday 13th January, 2-3pm. The aim of this is to provide you with the latest information available and to answer any questions that you may have regarding school and remote learning. In order that the sessions run smoothly, questions will need to be submitted in advance by 3pm on Tuesday to the admin email address (admin@hogarth.hounslow.sch.uk). Questions will not be taken live on the day. The code to access the livestream is:

<https://meet.google.com/uys-nddh-nng?hs=122&authuser=0>

Please do continue to look after yourselves.

Miss Stockley

