



South Hiendley Primary School
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28th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

What a start to the new year! It has been extremely challenging, but we would like to thank you all for pulling together and being patient with us when things don't quite work to plan.

Families, children and staff are working hard together to keep our children learning. As a school, we are tasked by the government to provide a certain number of hours of learning each day. This can be the live sessions, recorded sessions, tasks and commercially produced programmes like Oak Academy. As parents ourselves, we know that, although everyone is trying to complete all of the learning, this can be a tall order in busy households. Therefore, we want to reassure everyone that just doing the best you can is absolutely fine. We are focusing on basic skills in maths and English, and we have a focus on reading. If you can read lots, listen to stories, and keep going with the basics, that will be great. Please do not worry when things don't go well. If your child is stuck, we are here to help. If they have any questions, ask them to come onto the daily learning clinic for their class. At the learning clinic, their teacher will be there to help them.

Some information to be aware of:

Teams meetings

Well done to everyone who is regularly attending the class Teams meetings. It is important to attend as it supports school in making sure everyone is safe and well, and it also enables the children to see their friends and to discuss any issues with their remote learning. If the children attend the morning meetings, it also means that we don't need to phone parents to find out if they are ok and disturb you when you're busy. See below the times for the meetings:

Class Teams Registers

9.00-9.15	Y6
9.20-9.35	Y5
9.40-9.55	Y4
10.00-10.15	Y3
10.20-10.35	Y2
10.40-10.55	Y1
11.00-11.15	Reception

Learning Clinics

13.15-13.30	Y6
13.35-13.50	Y5
13.55-14.10	Y4
14.15-14.30	Y3
14.35-14.50	Y2
14.55-15.10	Y1
14.45-3.00	Reception

If you are experiencing difficulty with accessing Teams, there is a parents' guide on our website with step by step instructions. If you are still struggling, just email SH-Enquiries@ipmat.co.uk and we will try to help.

Loan Devices

We have recently taken delivery of some laptops from the DfE for children who do not have adequate devices to access home learning. If you think you may qualify for a laptop, please email us and we will try to help. Any families receiving a laptop are required to sign a loan agreement.

Covid-19 Lateral Flow Testing for Staff in Primary Schools

The Department for Education has recently announced that it will start a programme of asymptomatic Covid-19 testing in primary schools, school-based nurseries and maintained nursery schools. We have recently taken delivery of Covid tests for our staff and we will be commencing testing next week. Along with the other protective measures we are taking, testing will allow us to take further measures to help to work in as safe an environment as possible. Up to one in three people who have Covid-19 have the virus without symptoms so could be transmitting the virus unknowingly. Tackling the pandemic requires identifying asymptomatic, infectious individuals. By testing, we will help to reduce the spread in schools.

Staff will be conducting these tests at home, twice a week, on Sunday and Wednesday evenings. If a member of staff tests positive on a Sunday evening, their class bubble will be able to continue to attend as it will be more than 48 hours since they have been in contact. However, should there be a positive test on a Wednesday evening, it will be necessary to close that class bubble and the children isolate for the next 10 days. Obviously, we very much hope that this will not happen, but families need to be aware that bubbles could be closed at short notice. Therefore, please make sure you regularly check emails, the school website, and our Facebook page for any updates. The parents of any children directly affected will also receive a phone call as soon as we are alerted about any positive tests.

Mental Health week

This 3rd lockdown is taking its toll on everyone. Many families are having tough times and all of us have had to alter the way we live. During the week commencing the 8th February 2021 we will be marking National Mental Health week.

During this week, we will continue to provide the learning for pupils in English and Maths as normal, but we are going to suspend the wider curriculum lessons for the week and provide lessons and workshops to support families with their mental wellbeing. These will include a range of topics such as sleep, mindfulness, managing anxiety, managing feelings and behaviour. We hope that all of our families will take part in this, and hope that everyone will feel the benefit of this work.

Staff changes

Mrs Edwards leaves us at the end of this half term to start her maternity leave. Miss Squires will be the teacher taking over her class for this period of time. During the next 2 weeks, she will be working with Mrs Edwards to get to know all about the class, look at planning and get ready for after February half term. She will also have a virtual "drop in" with the children over TEAMS so that they can meet their new teacher.

Free School Meals - Reminder

If you think you might be eligible for Free School Meals but have not yet applied, below is the link to the Wakefield Council website where more information regarding this and the form to apply can be downloaded and completed:

<http://www.wakefield.gov.uk/schools-and-children/schools/going-to-school/free-school-meals>

If your child is in Upper Foundation Stage, Year 1 or Year 2, please still apply if you think you are eligible, even though all pupils in these year groups are eligible for universal free school meals already, because school receives extra funding from the Government that we can then use to enhance the education that the children receive.

Safeguarding

Please be aware of what children are accessing on their devices and monitor their use.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/need-help>

Further information can be found at:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/schools-esafety/primary/>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/>

<https://www.papyrus-uk.org/>

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/tiktok/>

Other useful links:

<https://parentinfo.org> - resources and guidance for parents on a wealth of subjects

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/> - guidance about popular apps, games and networks children may be accessing

<https://www.starwakefield.org.uk/> - resources and support to help deal with bereavement

<https://www.camhs-resources.co.uk/> - resources to help with mental health and wellbeing

<https://youngminds.org.uk/> - Young Minds

<https://wf-i-can.co.uk/> - Online resources for children and young people in Wakefield with mental health and wellbeing

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/> - NSPCC

<https://www.lullabytrust.org.uk/> - website for safer sleep for babies

www.iconcope.org – website offering support around normal infant crying and how to cope / manage this

Useful Numbers

YOUNG MINDS PARENTS HELPLINE: 0808 8025544

CHILD LINE - Help for adults concerned about a child call us on 0808 800 5000

CHILD LINE - Help for children and young people call Childline on 0800 1111

NHS - For urgent medical help – use the NHS 111 online service, or call 111 if you're unable to get help online.

NHS - For life-threatening emergencies – call 999 for an ambulance.

POLICE – 101 for non-emergencies or 999 in an emergency

REFUGE – Call 0808 2000 247 for support from the National Domestic Abuse Helpline

NORMANTON FOOD BANK - 01924 895634 or 07307 189851

Thank you for your continued support during these challenging times.

Keep safe