



Dear Parent,

The issues regarding the spread of Coronavirus are being well documented in the media. We are conscious that it is a situation that is changing daily, and regular updates whilst keeping you informed may also lead to speculation and alarm. We want to assure you that we as a school are doing what we can to minimise the risk to your children. The safety and wellbeing of our pupils is paramount.

At this critical time, I would ask for your cooperation in keeping your child off school should they be unwell. Childhood illnesses spread very quickly due to their close contact within the school setting. It is therefore essential that children should not be sent to school if they have the following symptoms:

- A persistent cough
- A high temperature/fever
- Flu like symptoms/ heavy cold
- Vomiting (They should remain at home for 24 hours after the vomiting has stopped)
- Diarrhoea (As with vomiting, 24 hours after it has stopped)

School has ensured all classes have received instruction on hand washing and disposal of used tissues. Cleaning staff have been briefed on ensuring all touch points such as handles, light switches, desktops etc are sanitised thoroughly, and soap in the toilets is replenished regularly. Assemblies have been cancelled as have all sporting events and group gatherings. Our text system and website will be used to inform you of further changes as the situation evolves. I urge everyone to follow the Public Health Authority guidelines to minimise the spread of this virus.

Should we be informed of a school closure, all parents will be notified via text, Seesaw and the school website so **it is vital that we have your current mobile numbers, and all parents join Seesaw and download Schools NI App**. Should the Department of Education instruct us to close, all children will have received a home learning code, and a folder of work which will last them for two weeks. Once this work is complete, if possible, they should access the app, where teachers will have uploaded activities for them to complete.

Should you wish to contact staff in an emergency or if you have an urgent query, you can message on Seesaw or email using the following address:

info@hollybankps.newtownabbey.ni.sch.uk

In the event of an extended school closure the Home Ed Community compiled this list for any parents who wish to extend the activities provided by teachers, feel free to share.

FREE online education resources

A non-exhaustive list that might help those affected by school closures due to coronavirus, compiled by home educators.

Feel free to share.

Khan Academy

<https://www.khanacademy.org>

Especially good for maths and computing for all ages but other subjects at Secondary level. Note this uses the U.S. grade system but it's mostly common material.

BBC Learning

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learning/coursesearch/>

This site is old and no longer updated and yet there's so much still available, from language learning to BBC Bitesize for revision. No TV licence required except for content on BBC iPlayer.

Futurelearn

<https://www.futurelearn.com>

Free to access 100s of courses, only pay to upgrade if you need a certificate in your name (own account from age 14+ but younger learners can use a parent account).

Seneca

<https://www.senecalearning.com>

For those revising at GCSE or A level. Tons of free revision content. Paid access to higher level material.

Openlearn

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/>

Free taster courses aimed at those considering Open University but everyone can access it. Adult level, but some e.g. nature and environment

Blockly

<https://blockly.games>

Learn computer programming skills - fun and free.

Scratch

<https://scratch.mit.edu/explore/projects/games/>

Creative computer programming

Ted Ed

<https://ed.ted.com>

All sorts of engaging educational videos

National Geographic Kids

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/>

Activities and quizzes for younger kids.

Duolingo

<https://www.duolingo.com>

Learn languages for free. Web or app.

Mystery Science

<https://mysteryscience.com>

Free science lessons

The Kids Should See This

<https://thekidshouldseethis.com>

Wide range of cool educational videos

Crash Course

<https://thecrashcourse.com>

You Tube videos on many subjects

Crash Course Kids

<https://m.youtube.com/user/crashcoursekids>

As above for a younger audience

Crest Awards

<https://www.crestawards.org>

Science awards you can complete from home.

iDEA Awards

<https://idea.org.uk>

Digital enterprise award scheme you can complete online.

Paw Print Badges

<https://www.pawprintbadges.co.uk>

Free challenge packs and other downloads. Many activities can be completed indoors. Badges cost but are optional.

Tinkercad

<https://www.tinkercad.com>

All kinds of making.

Prodigy Maths

<https://www.prodigygame.com>

Is in U.S. grades, but good for UK Primary age.

Cbeebies Radio

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/radio>

Listening activities for the younger ones.

Nature Detectives

<https://naturedetectives.woodlandtrust.org.uk/naturedetect.../>

A lot of these can be done in a garden, or if you can get to a remote forest location!

British Council

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/school-resources/find>

Resources for English language learning

Oxford Owl for Home

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/>

Lots of free resources for Primary age

Big History Project

<https://www.bighistoryproject.com/home>

Aimed at Secondary age. Multi-disciplinary activities.

Geography Games

<https://world-geography-games.com/world.html>

Geography gaming!

Blue Peter Badges

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/joinin/about-blue-peter-badges>

If you have a stamp and a nearby post box.

The Artful Parent

<https://www.facebook.com/artfulparent/>

Good, free art activities

Red Ted Art

<https://www.redtedart.com>

Easy arts and crafts for little ones

The Imagination Tree

<https://theimaginationtree.com>

Creative art and craft activities for the very youngest.

Toy Theater

<https://toytheater.com/>

Educational online games

DK Find Out

<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/...>

Activities and quizzes

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk>

This is more for printouts, and usually at a fee, but they are offering a month of free access to parents in the event of school closures.

Yours sincerely,

Miss L Brett

Principal

