



Dear Parents / Carers,

Firstly, before I start explaining everything that you need to know for the period of our school closure, can I say a massive thank you to entire school community for being so incredibly supportive at this time. Your kind words of support to me and the entire team at school has been wonderful. Thank you! It means so much.

As you can see, this is an incredibly lengthy document. Please keep it safe and treat it as your 'One Stop Shop' for information relating to home learning. Hopefully we have covered everything in this booklet!

1. Printed booklets of work

Children should already have 2 weeks' worth of work home with them. This was sent home last week. Please start this work with your children on Monday 23rd March 2020. This will last up until our Easter Holidays.

Further weeks of work will be posted on our school website, under Home Learning. Password: Hollybank. Please start the first online weekly plan on Monday 20th April. This was the date we should've been starting back after the Easter Holidays. Please be advised that work has not been provided for the Easter Holidays.

If you and your family are in self-isolation, please notify the school office on 02890 864944 and we will deliver weeks 1& 2 packs to your door.

2. Online Learning

After the 2 weeks of printed work has been completed, we will then switch to online home learning as advised by the Government. This is new territory for us as a primary school. Our system for online learning may not be perfect, but we will continue to develop this based on parent and carer feedback.

Online learning will begin on MONDAY 20th APRIL 2020.

Teachers will upload work for each year group on a weekly basis. Literacy, Numeracy and Other work will be uploaded, on a MONDAY, for the next week.

So, the first of our online learning will be uploaded on Monday 20th April 2020. Each Friday, the previous week's work will be deleted, in preparation for new new learning to be uploaded.

To find your child's online learning please follow the instructions below. This can be accessed via computer, laptop, smart phone and tablet.

- Visit www.hollybankps.co.uk
- Click on HOME LEARNING tab at the top of the screen.
- Then click on the Year Group that your child is in... for example...

PRIMARY 2 –

ENTER PASSWORD: hollybank

You will then see all the information you need for the week ahead. Teachers will have explained in written form an overview of the work. Any video clips to aid with home teaching will be available or links to online video clips will be available. Finally, any documents / worksheets etc that your child will be expected to complete will also be available to open and/or download.

WE DO NOT EXPECT YOU TO PRINT ANYTHING OUT AT HOME!

Pupils should complete the work on paper, on in an exercise book, available from Monday at the school office, if you do not have one. Children can look at the worksheet on the screen and complete answers to questions etc in their exercise books.

Although this is a very strange time for us all, we would really like parents / carers to encourage the continuation of a high standard of presentation of work in all books. On a daily basis, when completing written work in books, please encourage children to write a date and title as we would normally do in school. Neat handwriting and presentation at all time – remember that this will be expected when children start back to school.

If your child is getting to the end of their book, please contact school via email and we will have a book ready for you. If you are in self isolation, we will deliver it to you as soon as possible.

Although we will not be sending home school reading books, as we do not have enough in school to go around and cover a long period of closure, please

allow time at home for reading. Reading ANYTHING is better than reading nothing. We will expect children to keep on top of reading at home.

As you will be aware, children within the same classroom all work at different levels. We are all at different stages in our educational journey. Class teachers will try, as much as possible, to supply a range of work linked to your child's ability. Work will be uploaded to the school website on a weekly basis and activities will be labelled in the following way:

Literacy – Activity 1 – Group A

Literacy – Activity 1 – Group B and so on.

The teacher will inform you via Seesaw private message which group your child is in for Literacy and Numeracy. Please focus on this work as a starting point. If you would like your child to complete work from any other group, then please let them do so. Some work will be generic and will be labelled: Literacy – Activity 1 – All Groups / Groups A, B, C, D.

We hope that this will allow you to clearly see the work that your child should complete.

I have attached a suggested timetable for you to use at the back of this pack for home learning. You might be inclined to create a minute by minute schedule for your children. You may have high hopes of hours of learning, including online activities, science experiments, and book reports, or you might be worried as to how you will be able to continue to work AND be their "teacher" at home. Perhaps you'll limit technology until everything is done! But here's the thing...

Our children are just as worried as we are right now. Our children not only can hear everything that is going on around them, but they feel our constant tension and anxiety. They have never experienced anything like this before. Although the idea of being off of school for weeks sounds awesome, they are probably picturing a fun time like summer break, not the reality of being trapped at home and not seeing their friends.

Over the coming weeks, you may see an increase in behaviour issues. Whether it's anxiety, or anger, or protest that they can't do things normally - it will happen. You'll see more meltdowns, tantrums, and oppositional behaviour in the coming weeks. This is normal and expected under these circumstances.

What children need right now is to feel comforted and loved. To feel like it's all going to be ok, and that might mean that you tear up your perfect schedule: Play outside and go on walks, bake cookies and paint pictures, play board games and watch movies. Do a science experiment together or find virtual field trips of the zoo. Start a book and read together as a family or simply snuggle under warm blankets and do nothing.

Don't worry about them regressing in school. Every single child is in this boat and they all will be ok. When we are back in the classroom, we will assess and meet them where they are. Teachers are experts at this! All we ask is that you try your very best to follow the course of work, either on paper or online, that we are sending home.

If I can leave you with one thing, it's this: at the end of all of this, your children's mental health will be more important than their academic skills.

It will stay with them long after the memory of what they did during those weeks is long gone, so keep that in mind, every single day.

3. Communication with class teachers during a closure

It is very important that, during this time, parents and teachers can stay in contact to try and answer as many questions as possible. Many of you have been using Seesaw as a way of communicating with us over the last few days. This has worked very well as all parents and carers are able to see questions that have been asked and can see our answers.

In order to keep this line of communication open, each year group teacher in school will check their Seesaw messages daily, and respond Monday-Friday, between 9am and 3pm. This line of communication will remain open until 30th June 2020. Please use this to ask any curriculum related question to your child's class teacher. If they are able to check Seesaw at other times they will do so, however, I have assured staff that they are under no pressure to do so.

At any point, if you need to ask a question that you do not want to publicly advertise, then we would like you to contact us via the school email, which will also be checked daily.

The address is: info@hollybankps.newtownabbey.ni.sch.uk

Alternatively, you can contact our parent liaison worker Mrs Norma Johnston on 07972 253335, who will contact me directly. I will be available at any time

during a period of school closure. Evenings and weekends alike. If I don't answer immediately, it's likely because I will need to sleep at some point, I will get back to you as soon as I can. Do not sit at home worrying about anything. If I can help, then please do get in touch.

I am aware that the above information is a lot to take in. A paper copy will be posted home, and a copy can be found on the school website at any point. Please keep it safe and refer to it as much as possible.

Yet again, can I remind parents / carers that we are trying to support your child on their educational journey in a brand new way. We may not get it right straight away. Please give us time. Also, there may become a time when some of our staff may become unwell. If this is the case communication may slow a little and I will try and take over any communication if I can. Thank you in advance for your support and understanding.

Please see the next page for a possible timetable for home learning. Yours sincerely,

Miss L Brett, Principal



POSSIBLE HOME LEARNING TIMETABLE
I KNOW THIS WILL NOT SUIT EVERYONE – JUST AN IDEA.

TIME	WHAT TO DO / POSSIBLE LEARNING
Before 9am	Wake up / get dressed / eat a good breakfast.
9am – 10am	Morning activity – maybe a walk outside / activity in the garden etc.
10am – 11am	School Work Time
11am – 12pm	Helping Around the House
12pm – 1pm	Lunch Time – Relax Time
1pm – 2pm	School Work Time
2pm – 3pm	Quiet time / reading etc.

ONLINE LEARNING SITES

Khan Academy

<https://www.khanacademy.org>

IXL

<https://uk.ixl.com/>

BBC Learning

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

Libraries NI

<https://bit.ly/LNIebooks-emags>

National Geographic Kids

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

Mystery Science

<https://mysteryscience.com>

The Literacy Shed

<https://www.literacyshed.com>

Tinkercad

<https://www.tinkercad.com>

Prodigy Maths

<https://www.prodigygame.com>

Nature Detectives

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

Oxford Owl for Home

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

TTS

https://www.tts-group.co.uk/home+learning+activities.html?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=wallpost&utm_campaign=TTSparentpackpost&utm_content=nowlive

The Imagination Tree

<https://theimaginationtree.com>

Toy Theater

<https://toytheater.com/>

Twinkl

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

Topmarks

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

Times Tables

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

White Rose Maths

<https://whiterosemaths.com>

ICT games

<https://www.ictgames.com/>

Cbeebies Radio

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

Oliver Jeffers – will also be reading one of his books each weekday at 6pm.

