HOLLY PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL 20th April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly, we would like to say that we hope that you and your extended families are keeping healthy. We have all been well and we are looking forward to getting back into more of a routine after the Easter holidays.

We do not know when schools will be reopened. We watch the news daily for updates. As soon as we know, Mrs Pelham will be in touch. We know that we will be at home for the next three weeks at least. We will continue to phone you to check if you are OK. We managed to speak to almost everyone before the holidays. There were a couple of you that we rang but there was no answer so hopefully, we will catch up in the next couple of weeks.

We wanted to write to explain our thinking about the home learning that we will be giving over the next three weeks. We will be continuing to plan lots of activities around the bug club books that we are allocating, it’s good when learning is all linked together as this helps to understand topics better. We will also be giving some different maths over the next half term and it might be maths that we haven’t taught before. This might be a bit tricky but just do what you can.

READING

We will be continuing to send a Bug Club book each week. Please try to make sure your child is reading these books and are following the plan as each day has activities based around specific pages that they have read. If they are finding it difficult, use the ‘Read to Me’ button at the bottom of the page. Encourage them to listen to each page, one at a time before they try to read it for themselves. They can also listen to it and try to read alongside at the same time. You could also take it in turns to read one page each if this helps make the process flow better.

LITERACY

We have planned a series of lessons, just as we would if the children were at school. We have based the literacy around the bug club book. Initially, this will be The Tales of Taliesin. We have tried to include some handwriting and some grammar too. Please encourage your children to form their letters correctly when they are writing; a formation was sent to you when the school closed a few weeks ago. Also, videos are uploaded each week demonstrating how to form the letters correctly. They are quite quick videos so you might have to play it a few times to get the hang of it!

Spellings – Mrs Pelham the spellings out that are from the Y2 National Curriculum that children should be able to spell by the end of Y2 – please help your child to learn these.

MATHS

Before the holidays, we gave activities to practise concepts that we had already taught at school. Now, we are going to move into concepts that we have not yet taught. We will try to make it as easy as possible but the children will need adult support. We know that this is going to be difficult for some families; we appreciate that many of you are working from home and that most of you are not teachers. We will try our best to be clear. We will give instructions for what the children need to learn, sometimes we might be able to show a video clip and give a follow-up activity for the children to try. Some of the time, it will be easier to give a sheet. You do not have to print the sheet, if you can talk to your child about their thinking - that would be perfect. It’s important that you try and use resources to help you work out some of the problems. I know these are tricky times as you might not have a lot of things in this house (pasta for example!) But try and be creative maybe use lego bricks to help with counting, stones you’ve collected on one of your daily walks, sticks etc. At school, we encourage children to use resources to work out their maths at all times (this will continue until Year 6!) so please encourage your children to do the same.

FOUNDATION SUBJECTS

In this section of the National Curriculum we teach many subjects (Science, History, Geography, Art, DT, Music, PE, Computing, RE and PSHE) and we will try to give a mixture of them for home learning.

There are many other activities available online (too many – it’s quite mind blowing). You might find something different that your children are interested in and would prefer to do. Please do what suits you and your family. Ideally, we would like the children to keep up with their reading as this is a skill that is transferable to the rest of the curriculum.

Children should follow the Spanish video each week from Mrs Echanove and also the music one from Mr Hogan.

Miss Michael is reading a section a day of a story book – in the story corner of our website – so do get your children to follow that.

There is also picture news learning activities on the home learning section under classrooms – try these each week.

There are recorded video assemblies three times each week (starting next week) – watch these.

BBC Bitesize has launched a primary section and this can support your learning too.

We appreciate that there are many difficulties in the present situation. Lots of us are parents as well, trying to combine working at home with home-schooling. We understand that you might be sharing your laptop, have limited internet access, have no paper or other resources. We are trying to think of ideas that use resources that most families will have in their homes. We believe that children learn best when they are motivated; this happens when activities are fun and practical. We are trying to think of activities that put the least amount of stress onto families. If you are unable to complete the learning, please don’t worry. All teachers will be working hard when we are back at school to make sure your children are prepared for their future learning. Please focus on keeping yourselves and your children happy, safe and healthy during this time.

With very best wishes,

Sidrah Mir, Hannah Bawcombe, Avalon Mountford and Lewis Turner