

Dear parents

I hope that you are all in the swing of school work on Monday to Friday and have set a timetable that works for you and your family. Work is now posted on the website the day before so that you can access it earlier on the day – we have realized that children do get up and are ready to start quite early and that working parents can then support their children first thing and then allow them to play more after lunch so that they can do their work. Obviously every family needs to do what works best for them. We hope the work on the website earlier will help.

School Reports

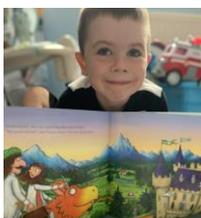
The teachers have finished writing reports and now Miss Michael and I are reading them all. Once we have read them, we will be emailing them out to you one by one. We estimate to email them all out one by one will take about a week – so it is possible that you will get reports for siblings several days apart – don't panic – they will be coming. When we are ready to start sending them we will let you know.

More Than Just A Building

Watching Miss Michael's greeting message to you all when she talked about missing everybody and how we are all still connected in so many ways during this difficult time made me think about the school. I started to think about why I have been here for 30 years – and of course – it's not because of the building! I realise that the old junior building with its pointed roof and its lovely bell tower is probably one of the landmarks that I've seen most in my life – but the buildings have changed over the years and it's not the buildings that make me love my job – it's the people. People often comment about 'The School' but what is – the school? Of course it is a building – but more than that - it is ALL of the people who make up that school – all of the individuals who come together to make it – pupils, parents, governors, staff. Holly Park is so much more than just a building – it is the people who make it special. I am fortunate to work with some of the loveliest people – and although people also come and go – so many staff have been here for such a long time too because like me they recognize that Holly Park is a very special place to be. There is always a very strong sense of community and friendliness – visitors always comment. Miss Michael was right when she said that although the school is pretty empty for now – the sense of community and togetherness still exists. Thank you for being part of our special community and for making it more than just a building.

Reading

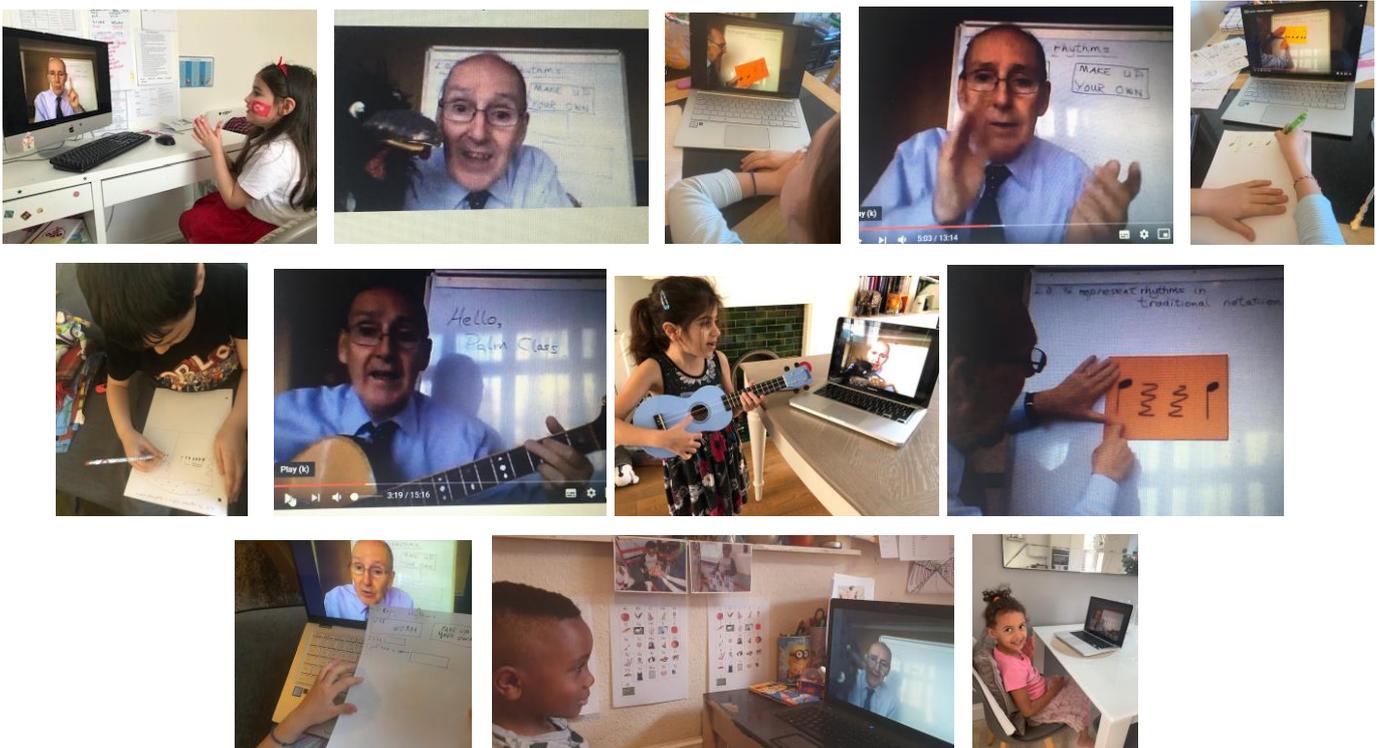
Reading is so important, This is a great time to do lots of reading. At a time when we cannot go anywhere much very physical, reading can take our minds to lots of interesting places. Reading is good for rest and relaxation. Reading is a key for all subjects now and in the future. Reading extends vocabulary. Reading helps with spelling and writing skills. If children are not so keen on reading themselves then it is important that they listen to stories – they can still gain a great deal from listening to stories and it will still help all of the above. This is why we have put a story corner onto our website too. It can have great educational benefit.





Music Lessons On The Website

Mr Hogan is following the National Curriculum Objectives and is doing short music sessions every week for each year group. Each week will be a different one. I think he plans to change them on a Thursday. Get your children to follow along.



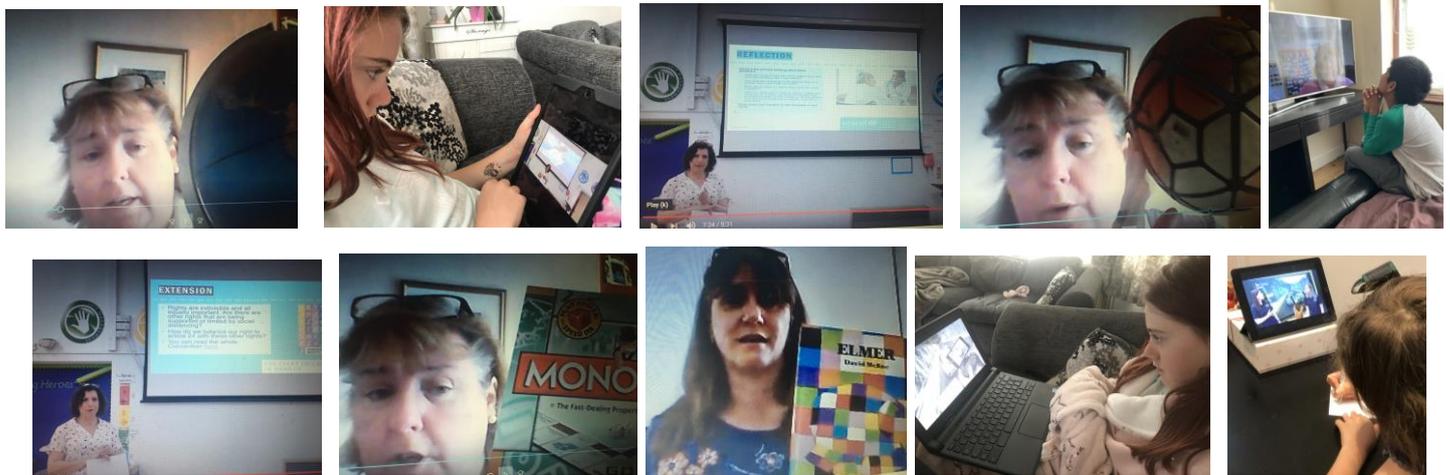
Spanish Lessons On The Website

Mrs Echanove will be doing a Spanish recording each week for the website on the Spanish page. The recordings are suitable for all year groups from Reception to Y6, Everyone will get something out of them – either revising what they already know or extending their learning. They will be on the website on a Monday.



Assemblies On The Website

Assemblies are on the website three times each week – on the assembly section – under the News and Dates tab. The Monday Assembly is based on Picture News – this makes the children think about world issues and important events. The Wednesday Assembly will be a story with a message or moral. The Friday Assembly links to Rights. These are all key learning opportunities – learning is not just about the curriculum subjects – learning is much broader. At Holly Park we offer an enriched curriculum which is wide and diverse.



Rights Respecting Schools Weekly Tasks

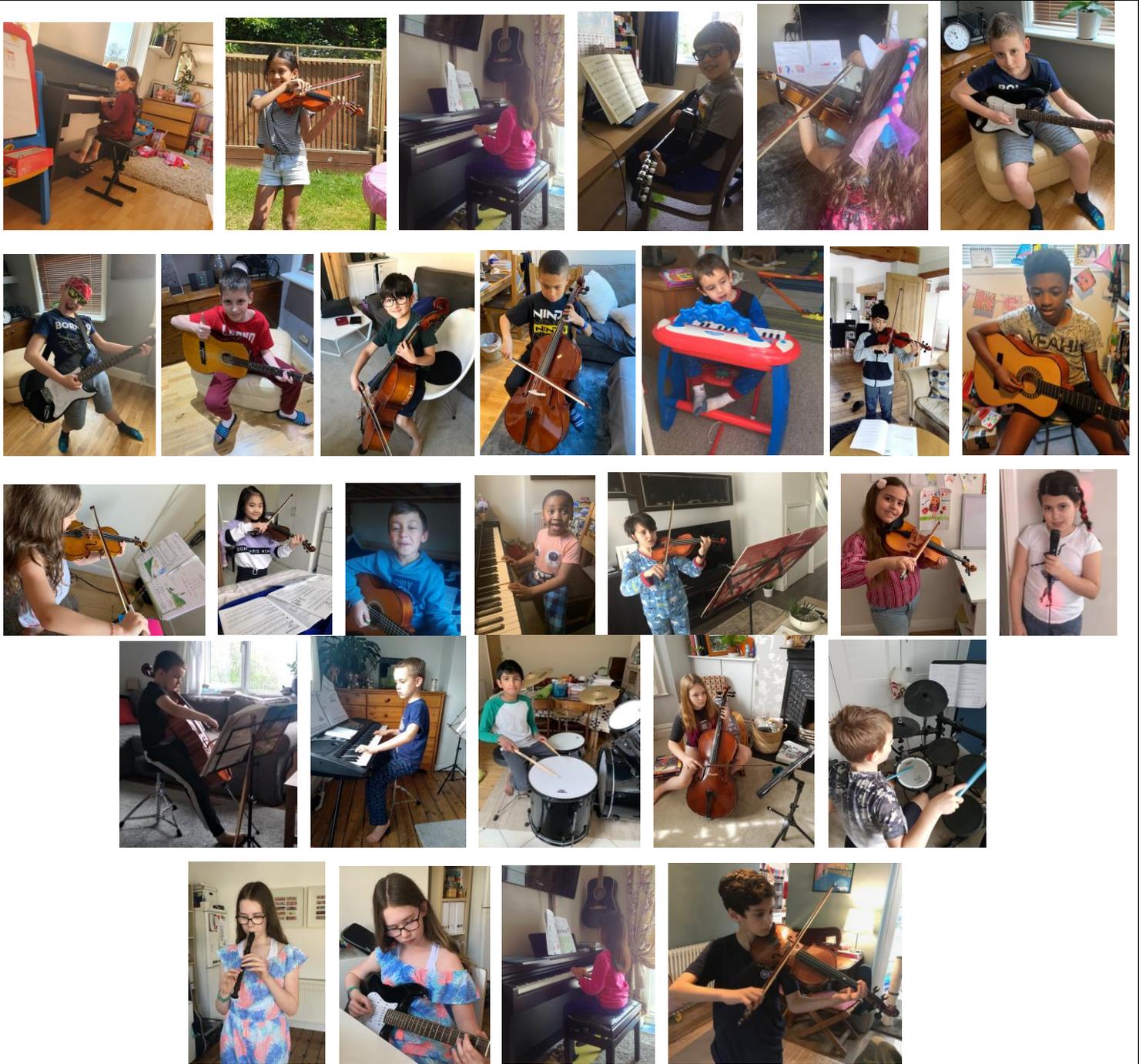
Article 24 Health Care – Every Child has the Right to the best possible Health Care

What do you need to be healthy? Eat nutritious food. Lots of children have been thinking about healthy lunches and drinks this week.



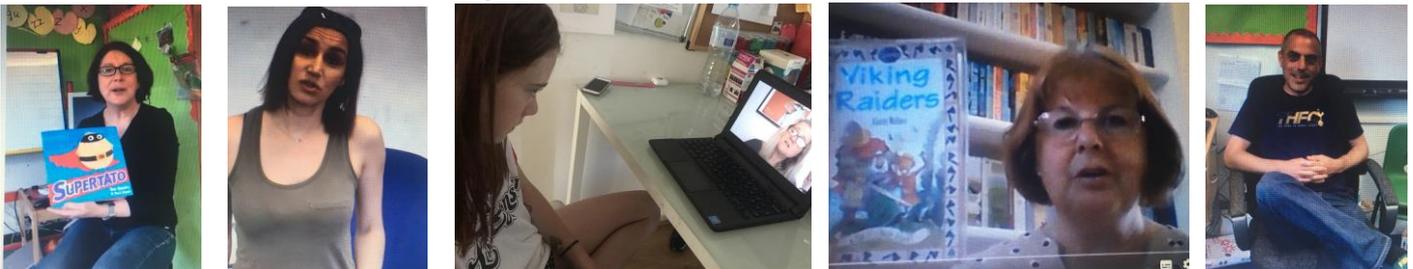
Practicing Musical Instruments

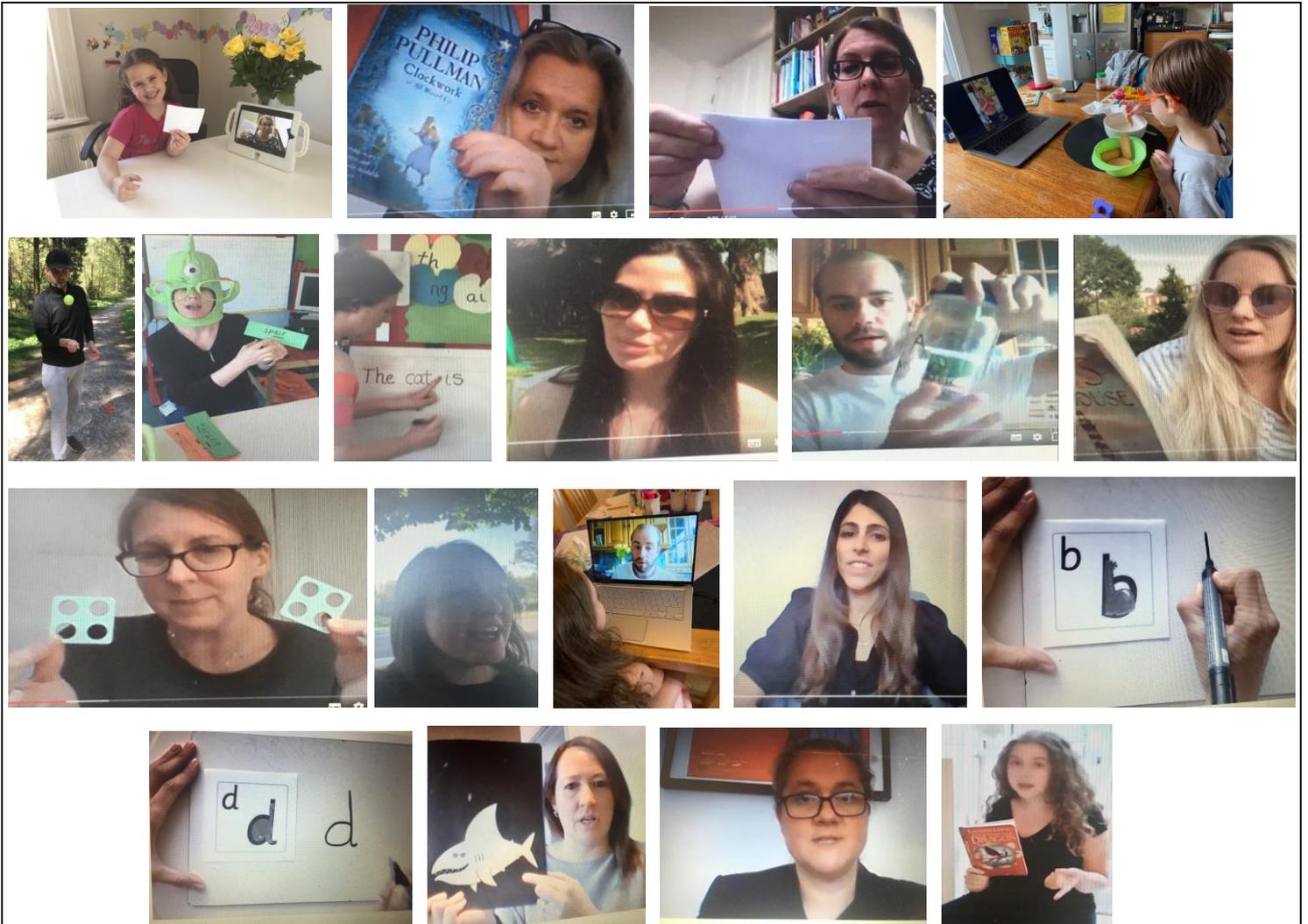
Many of our children learn instruments – either at school or through private lessons. Whether the children are continuing with lessons via zoom or have paused for now, it is essential they keep practicing. Playing a musical instrument is good for wellbeing and learning. Even if children don't actually learn a musical instrument they can still make music and they can sing! Singing is wonderful for making us feel good and happy.



Enjoying Seeing Teachers On The Website

On every year group page there are links to videos to see the class teachers. Some of these are the teacher as a whole, some are the teachers arms and voices. We have seen teachers talking about ducks at the duck pond, doing phonics lessons, making books, teaching synonyms, demonstrating handwriting, saying hello, reading excerpts from texts and asking questions, doing experiments, doing maths demonstrations, doing fitness etc. The Y6 teacher videos are on the Google Classroom.





Google Classroom

We have successfully launched Google Classroom with our classes in KS2 and in Year 2. Year 6 are using it in a different way – a more secondary model.

So How does this work for Years 2-5?

Work is still set on the website. Videos from teachers will still be there with the work. There will still be videos of music, Spanish, assemblies, story corner, hello messages etc on the school website.

The google classroom is a virtual classroom. We will be using it as a platform for children to share the excellent home learning they have been doing directly with the teachers. They can upload a photo, video or the document they have done the work on (if they have used a computer) onto the 'stream'. Therefore parents only need to send me things I request for the newsletter – all other examples of work can be shown to the teachers via Google classroom.

The teachers will then be able to comment on the work and, if needed, offer any guidance. This may also help the children to be more motivated to do the home learning as time goes on, as teachers will be able to see the work.

This will not be marking as such, as we cannot tell how much parent input there has been and every child is doing their work under different circumstances. It is an opportunity for the children to have some acknowledgement for what they have done and it may help to motivate them. It will also help teachers see how the children as a whole are responding. This is a platform for pupils and is not a platform for parents to make contact with the teacher. Just to be clear, this is not a group chat. Everyone will be able to see each post so do bear that in mind before posting anything. As with any internet use and with online-safety in mind, parents must monitor the children whilst they are using the google classroom.

Pictures For The Newsletter Next Week

For the newsletter next week, please send me photographs of children playing board games, cards, imaginative games, role play games, or games outside.

Please also send me VE day photographs – red, white and blue pics, VE day work, tea parties. The newsletter next week will go out at the weekend after the VE celebrations.

What To Do If Your Child Finishes The Work Set For The Day

If your child finishes their English, Maths and Foundation subject work for the day there are other activities they can do:

- Read for 30 minutes
- Practice their half term spellings for 10 minutes
- Make sure they have watched the music lesson of the week
- Y2-6 can practice multiplication tables for 15 mins every day
- Make sure they have watched the Spanish lesson of the week – even watch it again
- Make sure they have watched the 3 assemblies of the week – Mon, Weds, Fri
- There are activities to do after the Friday assembly – have they done those?
- There are activities to do after the Monday assembly – have they done those?
- Listen to a story on story corner (all year groups have stories at school every day)
- Read the weekly – First News which is on the right hand side of the school website home page
- Reception and Y1 can do the daily DFE phonics lesson
- Reception can replay the phonics videos on our website
- Go onto BBC Bitesize and do some of the year group activities
- Log onto Oak National Academy – a website set up by the government – go onto the right year group and watch some recorded lessons – there are lessons on there every day for lots of subjects
- Do Joe Wicks PE lesson or some other form of exercise daily for about 30 mins

Remember too that at school your child has playtimes and an hour for lunch.

As well as all of these things – your child can do extra creative activities, cook, play board games, help with chores in the house such as setting the table, empty the bins, pair the socks, hang out washing, Hoover etc They can play role play games, make phone calls to grandparents, face time friends, weed or plant seeds in the garden.

Special Days & Activities Coming Up In The Next Few Weeks

British Values Day Thursday 7th May – VE Day

Friday 8th May is the celebration of 75 years since VE day. There is a bank holiday to celebrate. So on the Thursday 7th May the teachers will set maths and English activities as normal but then everybody will get the same VE celebration activity to do as part of our work on British Values. Please do send in pictures of your VE Day work for the newsletter. You might also want to dress in red, white and blue or have a family tea party outside your house.

International Day Friday 15th May

On Friday 15th May we had planned to have an International day in school as we do each year. So on this day, teachers will set the usual maths and English work but there will be some international activities for everyone to do. These will be on the website. We would love you to email them to us for the newsletter.

Summer Term House Challenge Friday 22nd May

On Friday 22nd may we would have had a whole school House Challenge. So – on this day we are going to ask you to do the house challenge and send it in. The house challenge is going to be a photo competition. You will need to take a photo and email it to me with the child's name and house. There will be a point for every photo sent in – and winning photos will be chosen. The theme for the competition is – **Hope and Positivity**. You need to send in any picture which you feel sows this. So do get thinking!

A gallery Of Photos

Across the last two weeks parents have sent in pictures of children doing work set by their teachers. I have seen children doing maths, spelling, handwriting, writing stories, making potions, doing art, shadow experiments, geography research on mountains and avalanches with power point presentations, making badges, making their own lunch, researching planets, writing historical newspaper articles, doing research and making Tudor life powerpoints, learning about Internet Safety, work based on texts and a virtual trip to the British Museum to visit the Ancient Mayan section.





Reminders Of What Is On The School Website

Greetings

There will be greeting videos from me and Miss Michael to the children twice a week on the home page. We will update these when we go into school each week – do keep checking them. There are three there already – do have a look.

Assemblies

On our website there will be weekly assemblies – three a week. These are suitable for Y1 to Y6. The Monday and Friday may be a little challenging for Y1 – but they can have a go at watching them. They will be short. These will be done on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday. They will be on the Assembly page of the website. The one for today is already there – get your children to watch it.

Spanish

There will be a weekly Spanish video on the Spanish page of the website – Mrs Echanove will be doing books, songs etc. These will be generic and suitable for Y1-Y6 to practice their Spanish and keep it going. The aim is to be fun and give them confidence. Children nationally do not have to learn a language until Year 3 but at HPS we start in Reception. There are two on there from this week. New ones go up on a Monday.

Music

Each classroom for Reception to Y6 will have a weekly music lesson uploaded by Mr Hogan on a Thursday. The lesson will relate to the music national curriculum and the objectives they would have covered this term. Please check that once a week. There has been a lesson on every classroom this week.

Story Corner

This area of the website will have stories for all year groups. Short stories for Nursery to Y1 and chapter stories to follow each day for Years 2-6. Stories are very important and are a huge part of education. They encourage creativity, language development, wellbeing, story structure, develop ideas on character, plot and setting. Encourage your children to listen in every day. They are also good for wellbeing, relaxation and pleasure. There are lots on there already.

Nursery and Reception

There will be a weekly section of activities you can do across the week on your classroom pages. There will be links to teacher videos for the children to watch e.g – Miss Wood at the duck ponds, Miss Yiannaki doing phonics, Mrs Walton reading the text for the week, Miss Georgiou doing handwriting etc Look out for these .

Years 1 – 5

The weekly work will be set on the website each day – English, maths and a foundation subject. Either separately or as a link in the document there will be some short videos of teachers explaining or demonstrating as necessary. For Years 3-5 there will also be spelling lessons set once each week from Mrs Tsenti and Mrs Thomas. Of course the children should still be reading every day and learning their multiplication tables.

Year 6

The explanation of the work will be on the school website. The main body of what the work actually is will be on Google Classroom. There will also be short videos from the teachers as necessary either on the website or on Google Classroom. The Thursday spelling activity will always be set by me on the classroom page of the website NOT Google Classroom. Again we would want the children to be reading for 30 minutes a day.