



HOLLY PARK NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 29

Friday 15th May 2020

www.hollyparkschool.co.uk

Dear Parents

I am sure that you will have heard much online this week and in the media about schools re-opening. This is part of the government's conditional plan, which it says will remain under regular review and is yet to be final. We know that you will understand that the safety of everyone in the school community is paramount. We all want to get more pupils back into school as soon as it is safe to do so. However, I do want to stress that my first priority has to be the health and well-being of all our children and our staff.

Whatever happens before September, it is extremely unlikely that school will look anything like it did before lockdown. There is much planning (including maintaining our virtual learning) and risk assessments before we can open the school safely.

The key message is that this phased re-opening of schools needs to be done carefully and safely and I am sure you will bear with us whilst we do this. We will be sending you more information as things become clearer to us and we receive further guidance from central government, the DfE and the Local Authority.

It is likely we will trial a pilot group of Key Worker children in the new format first in week one and then some of Y6 the week after. It is also likely that children will attend school on a rota basis therefore doing a combination of school learning and home learning until the end of term – possibly a week at home and a week at school. We may not expect to see Y1 back on a rota basis until mid June and Reception until the start of July. It is unclear if Nursery will get to come back before the summer holidays.

For those of you with children in other year groups there is a very small possibility that your children will return for some time before the summer but again it is not likely to be on a full time basis as the school is not big enough and there are not enough staff. If these year groups do return it will only be for a few weeks. It is important that as a school we start slowly and carefully and establish a workable plan that we can scale up as we add more year groups back into school life.

As a school, we do not need to admit any pupils until we are ready and we are doing it in a way that works for our school. We will be carrying out a risk assessment and Road Map to opening before doing anything else. This will establish what we need to do to open safely and for how many pupils.

Today I have been in a zoom meeting with Headteachers in our other local schools and they are doing an almost identical plan. On Monday I have a meeting with a selection of HPS school staff and some governors to look more closely at the plan I have drawn up. On Tuesday next week I have a meeting with Barnet LA and a wider group of Barnet Headteachers. Nine teaching and support staff unions have been meeting with the government today and are putting their views forward about ensuring a SAFE return.

Holly Park staff have been attending virtual courses about getting pupils school ready and the role parents need to play in this. They are also attending courses on the inevitable (even bigger) attainment gap that will exist between pupils on their return and courses on adapting the curriculum as we move forward.

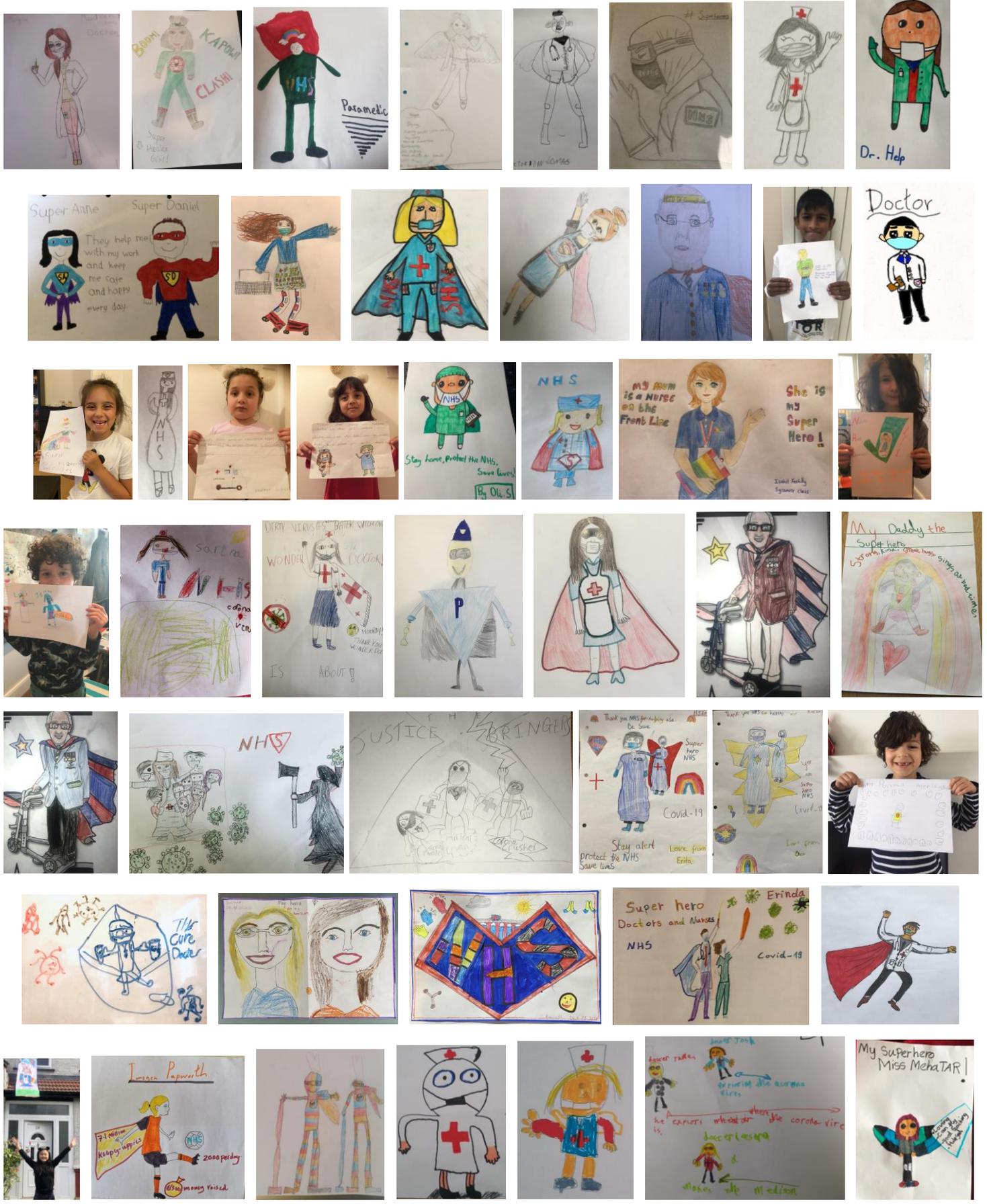
At the end of the newsletter are some frequently asked questions.

Modern Day Super Heroes



A super hero is generally defined as a benevolent fictional character with superhuman powers, such as Superman. But what are the qualities of a superhero? Traits of super heroes include: extraordinary abilities, being courageous, having strong moral codes, having a great sense of responsibility, having a fighting spirit, having mental stability. In the current crisis many modern day super heroes have emerged – individuals such as Captain Tom for example. Groups have emerged as super heroes – generally our key workers such as carers, shop workers, teachers, delivery drivers, post men, fire men etc. For certain those working on our NHS frontline are real super heroes – doctors, nurses, surgeons, porters etc. This week as part of PHSE and Art, we asked the

children to think about the qualities of super heroes and to draw – not a traditional super hero BUT a modern day super hero. They came up with teachers, paramedics, parents, postmen, policemen and NHS staff. They also thought of some individuals by name. Here are some of their drawings:

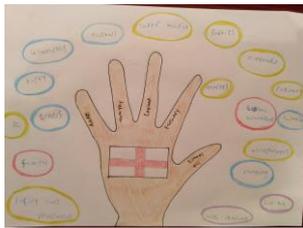
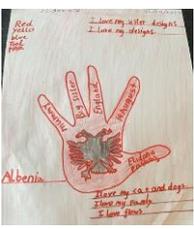




We Are All Unique – We have an Identity

This PHSE task links with Article 7 – birth registration, name, nationality and care. Every child has the right to be registered at birth, to have a name and nationality, and, as far as possible, to know and be cared for by their parents. We are all different. We are all unique. We have different names, different hobbies, different dates of birth, we look different, we were born in different places. We all have our own identity. We asked the children to think about their own identity. We asked the children to draw their hands.

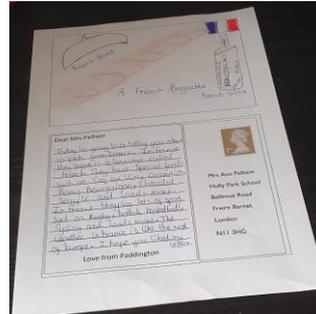
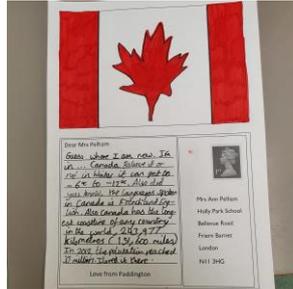
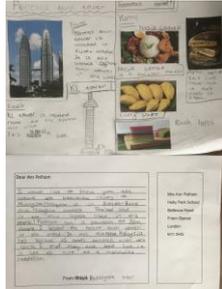


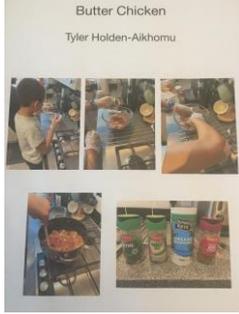
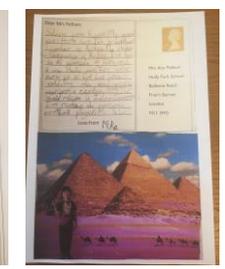
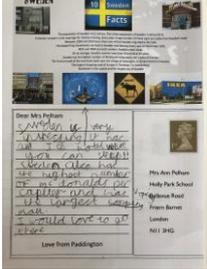
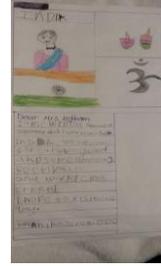
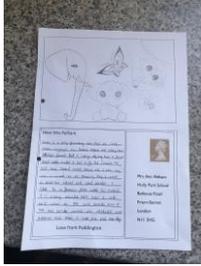
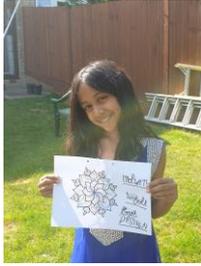


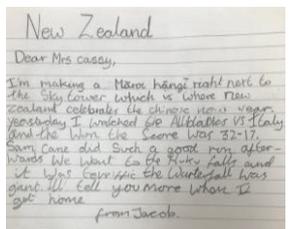
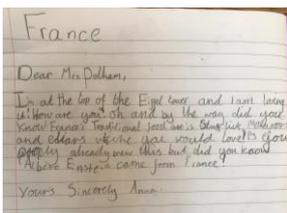
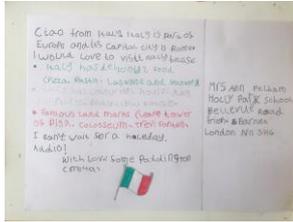
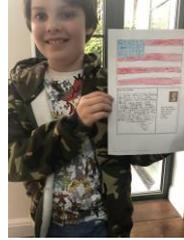


International Day

Today is Holly Park International Day. In school we have an International day each year as we believe that it is very important to celebrate our very richly diverse school community. It is important for children to think about their family backgrounds, consider the countries they identify with and find out about other cultures and countries in the world to see their similarities and differences. The children had the opportunity to do some research about another country and to make a postcard about that country. They also had the opportunity to be able to celebrate their own cultural heritages. Many made delicious foods from all over the world – such as Irish soda bread, Baklava, fish and chips, jerk chicken, English breakfast and Polish dumplings. There was food from so many countries – Greece, India, England, Russia, Jamaica, Poland, Ireland, Kosovo, France, Italy and many, many more. I only wish I had got to taste some of it. Here are some of the postcards and activities:







Summer Term House Challenge – Next Friday

There is only a week to go until the deadline for the Summer Term House Challenge closes. Every child can only submit one picture. The challenge is to submit a picture that shows Hope and positivity' I have already had several entries. The entry should be a photograph or a picture drawn by the child. I also need to know which house they are in. Every entry counts as a point for that house. Please support your child to engage with this and it is also a great time to discuss how we can keep positive in a difficult situation. It is a great opening to talk to them about how they are feeling. Here are some ideas:



Mental Health and Wellbeing

During these uncertain times, it can be very daunting and worrying for children and parents alike. Your children may have many questions that you cannot answer. They may be quieter than normal, much angrier or they may refuse to do as you ask. We have spoken to many of you who have said that you are worried about your children; they are feeling anxious and are finding it hard to regulate their emotions. They are missing schools and their friends. They may be struggling to want to do their work and may be quite stubborn about all kinds of things. Many of you as parents are feeling unsettled as well. This is normal and expected which is why from the first day of lockdown we sent you links to websites that can support in different ways. There are many more on our school website as well. Please do have a look. There is advice for you as adults and parents and also support for children with videos and stories as well as mindfulness activities. You can find these on the “Family Support” section. Go to “About Us” at the top and scroll down and find ‘Family Support’ .

YOUNGMINDS
fighting for young people's mental health

MIND UP™



**Anna Freud
National Centre for
Children and Families**

parentgym
FOR PARENTS WHO CARE

The Zones of Regulation Toolbox is also very useful for helping children to regulate their emotions. If you haven't made one yet, then please do, it really does help.



**Getting your children ready for a return to school
Routines, habits and Attitudes - A Readiness for Learning Plan**

As plans for children to slowly begin to come back to school emerge, it is essential that as parents you begin to get your children ready for what might be a short notice of return. Children have been away from school and their school routines now for seven weeks – routines and habits may have lapsed and Lockdown malaise may have settled in! We don't know how the next half term will develop and it may be that children yo-yo between home and school over a period of several terms if future lockdowns are necessary. For this reason it is vital that you get a clear structure in place in your home that can then easily be transferred to school. Children need to be learning ready. Parents need to get their children ready for this at home first. Children who have transferable routines will cope much better with the transition back to school and what the future of education will bring. All families need to go back to basics and ensure there are clear getting up routines and clear going to bed routines in place.

Therefore we are suggesting:

Have your children washed, dressed, breakfast eaten and ready for 8.45am every day

Do some exercise at the start of each day 9,00am – 9.30am

Ready for the day!

Schools are very timetabled places so establishing clear times of the day is going to be important in the next few weeks. Every household is different but you may want to put in a timetable such as:

9.30am - Watch a Holly Park assembly and/or greeting message

9.45am – Maths activity

10.30am – Take a break

10.45am – English activity

11.45am – Read a book

12.15pm – lunch

1.15pm – Foundation subject activities

2.15pm - Break

2.30pm - Music, spanish, spelling, times tables, extra Assembly PHSE activity

3.00pm – Listen to a story on story corner

3,15pm Complete a chore in the house

Obviously every home is different and you must do what works for you – but routine is key!

A clear routine at home over the next few weeks will be imperative to help your child with the transition. It is really important that as far as you can, you create a good working space for your children at a table or desk , where they can sit comfortably and up straight , it is quiet and they can work without disruption if possible. It is also essential that children get at least 8 hours sleep a night and that you harness screen time to positive learning time. By thinking about these things at home now and discussing them with your child, you will have created a readiness for learning plan that will support them over the next few months.

Our Holly Park Key Values

Again as children prepare to come back to school, it is very important that we reaffirm our school values and ethos as children have been very much in isolation at home and are now preparing in the coming weeks to be back together. The school that they left will not be the school that they return to. There will be far more restrictions, less sharing of equipment, a need to keep a distance etc It is important that home and school share these values. We have looked at our school values (all 22) and have picked out some that we feel are very important at the moment. In the next few weeks please share and discuss these school values with your children. I will email them out to you separately so that you can print them out and display them in your home. Please use this vocabulary in your home and use them to support behaviours you want to see in your children.

The Holly Park Family Are.....

- Respectful
- Friendly
- Resilient
- Determined
- Accepting
- Patient
- Co-operative
- Kind
- Responsible
- Hopeful

Pictures for the Newsletter Next Week

For the newsletter next week please would you send me

1. Pictures of children sitting at their work stations at home
2. Pictures of children exercising again – this is so important for health and mental wellbeing that we must continue to do this
3. Pictures of children being friendly– at home, with pets, at a social distance, virtually

Awards

In these uncertain times and being away from school for so long, it is normal for children to lose confidence. Teachers have been nominating children for Headteacher Awards from the work they have seen. Thank you also to parents who have put their child forward for a Headteacher Award. It is essential to talk to your children at home about the learning they are doing but also to praise them for their efforts. Obviously it has to be something extra special for a Headteacher Award but do let me know if you feel your child deserves one. It may help to boost their confidence. We would also like to give out Resilience Awards. If you feel that your child has shown extra special resilience at home on a task – let me know and I will email an award.

School Re-opening - Frequently Asked Questions

My child is in nursery, reception Year 1 or Year 6. Will school be open for them on 2nd June?

We still do not know whether school will be open. The government will make a decision on whether it is safe to start reopening nationally, and they think this might be possible from 1st June at the earliest. Several unions have also been in discussion with the government about reopening plans. Like every Headteacher, I will also need to make a decision, with governors and staff, whether we are able to open our own school in a way that is safe for our children and staff. We all miss your children but will not open until we feel it is safe enough. This will mean it will more than likely be later than 2nd June, and will most certainly mean we will welcome children back more gradually over an extended period of weeks. Therefore some children may not return for quite some weeks. I know that many of you are keen for your children to return but safety must be the priority.

My child is in another year group. When will school reopen for them?

At the moment, we do not know. The government has stated an “ambition is to bring all primary year groups back to school before the summer holidays, for a month if feasible”. However they have not shared any evidence that this will be safe or possible, and it would be very complex for any primary school to accommodate all children safely before September. Again, we would love to have all children back but not before it is safe to do so.

If school does reopen in June, how safe will it be?

We are working hard on plans for how we would keep children and staff safe. This is likely to include: increased cleaning of the building; regular handwashing; learning in smaller groups; children in on a part-time basis only; reduced classroom and play equipment; different drop-off, pick-up, break and lunch times; PPE for staff to use in certain circumstances; restrictions on parents in school. We will do everything we can to minimise the risks, but I cannot promise that the risk will be zero. The government guidance to schools recognises that “unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2m apart from each other and staff”. However, we will do what we can to social distance as far as is possible. I will be reviewing all the advice from the government, and from national and local health and education bodies, to ensure we make the right decisions and plans for our community.

Will the return to school of my child help me get back to work?

We are working hard to put plans in place. The priority of our plans is to ensure the safety of our children, staff and our school community. It is looking very likely that there will be a rota for children attending and that home learning will continue to happen. The rota might happen on a week on and week off basis or children attending certain days each week - to ensure the school is as safe as it can be for children and staff. Unfortunately, our plans may not help get parents back to work or fit neatly with parent work rotas etc – as a school we must do what works best for the children and staff. When the plans are revealed they are not necessarily going to suit everybody, however I can assure you that all Barnet schools are thinking in the same way.

My child is attending The Holly Park Hub at present as the child of a keyworker, will this continue?

Yes, the children who currently are attending school will continue to be able to attend, but this will definitely

happen in a different format after the Half term holiday and will be more formal. They will be in school uniform and will have a very structured day. Children in a year group which is open, will spend certain days in their class and certain days in the Hub.

I am a Key Worker, can my child attend The Hub?

The Hub is only for Key Worker children as defined by the existing government list. Due to capacity and on recommendation from the LA, the Hub is ONLY for children of single parent Key Workers or families where BOTH parents are Key Workers. I realise that this is difficult for parents but these are the guidelines we are following. On signing up for the Hub, parents must provide evidence they are a Key Worker and provide evidence of their work pattern.