

ISSUE 14

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Friday 8th January 2021

<u>Happy New Year</u>

Welcome back to the new term and to 2021 at Holly Park. I would like to thank you on behalf of myself and the staff for the very generous gifts we received at the end of term. I wish you a happy and healthy 2021.

What a start to the year 2021. Here we are facing another six week period of lockdown again. The staff have started back at work this week. We have had a whole series of Zoom meetings and the staff have planned for the term ahead.

The school is open for Key worker children, EHCP and vulnerable children. We have over 100 children attending school in year group bubbles. The nursery is open for all existing children and the new children have had their initial meeting but will have a delayed start. Online learning has begun. Learning for Reception is posted weekly on the Reception page of the website with music lessons, Spanish lessons posted weekly and three hello videos from staff each week. There will be no online learning provided for nursery as the nursery remains open. Work activities, tasks, recorded lessons, spanish, music and assemblies will be posted on Google Classroom each day for YI to Y6. Work needs to be returned via Google Classroom each day. Teachers will check the classrooms between 9am and 4pm daily. The Pelham Post has resumed and is

also posted on Google Classroom. A reminder that Google Classroom is for pupil and teacher contact and interaction it is not a forum for parents to post messages to teachers or each other.

50% of school staff will be in school each day involved in Key Worker Hubs - so the teachers in a year group will be working as a team rather than separately - the beauty of a two form entry school.

It may then be that another teacher from the year group may comment on your child's work or that they may do the daily hello to all of the children in that year group. There will be flexibility. Teaching assistants will be in school every morning and will then make some phone calls to parents in the afternoons.

All parents should receive one phone call from the class teacher within the two week period before 18th January.

There will be no live social group meets in this first two week period. After the initial two weeks we will instigate a weekly live meet up for groups of up to ten children within the year group for Years I to 6. We will send out the online expectations of behaviour and suitable settings before this happens.

We all appreciate how difficult this situation is especially for working parents. We ask that you support your child with the home learning as best you can however we appreciate that everybody's situation is different.

If you need to contact the class teacher or have any questions for them about the home learning then please contact the school office. There will be someone in the office every day between 8.30am and 3.30pm. The answer machine will be on at all other times - do leave a message. You can also email the office and your email will be passed to the class teacher. The Blended Learning Policy was emailed out to all parents and is on the school website. This covers several possible home learning scenarios. The section that will be in operation for this period of time is the purple section from the policy - Closure due to local or national circumstances.

I wanted to share something with you that I saw on social media.

'Whatever your thoughts on school closures are, please remember this:

- Your children's school did not make this decision
- Your children's school want the very best for your child
- Your children's teachers will spend the next few days re-planning the work they had planned for the coming school weeks

• Your children's school staff may be fearful for their own, and their families, health due to rising infection rates, even with

all the safety measures put in place

• Your children's teachers have never worked so hard to provide education within the ever changing guidance provided by the government

• Your children's school staff will be ready to welcome all of the children back into school buildings as soon as they are able to

• Your children's school staff are human beings, with emotions, that are affected by this too

If you know someone who works in a school they need kindness and compassion right now!'

We understand that you too as parents and home educators also need kindness and compassion at this time. This is not an easy situation for any of us. It is something we have all had foist upon us and is not of our choosing or making. We need to remember to be kind to each other through phone calls, texts and emails. Many of you and your families have had COVID, several staff members have had COVID, we all know neighbours, family and friends who are either very ill in hospital or have passed away due to COVID. Some staff have post COVID symptoms still. This is a difficult time for us all. We look

forward to working together as best we can over the next few weeks. We need to remember that we are not alone in this and the pandemic is affecting all parents, all schools, all teachers and all families throughout the UK and the world.

Our Nursery is on Instagram and facebook

During this time when parents cannot come into our Nursery to see it – either existing parents or prospective parents, we have decided to set up an Instagram account and post pictures of activities so that you can all see what the children are doing. There are pictures and videos with explanations of learning objectives so please do follow us and encourage your friends, family and neighbours to follow us too! Do share it with anyone you know locally with a three year old who may be interested in joining nursery in January or next September.

<u>https://www.instagram.com/p/CIgFpgNjh7O/?igshid=jes0sb4r5frm</u> The facebook page is also up and running – have a look.

Lost Log In Details Or Contacting The Class Teacher With A Query

If you have lost any log in details for Google Classroom, for My Maths or Bug Club – please contact the school office and they will make contact with the class teacher and get them for you. If you need to make contact with a class teacher over any questions or queries – again please contact the school office and they will make contact with the class teacher. Remember that **children** can also ask questions on Google Classroom.

Laptops and Other Devices For Home Learning

We have been given 27 laptops from the DFE for certain pupils - ONLY those on FSM or who are Pupil Premium. These laptops are for loan ONLY over a school closure period and would be loaned under very strict conditions. The laptops are firstly for children in a household where there is **NO other device** to use. If you have a device already that can be shared then you must use this. If you have no device and you would like to borrow one then we would ask you to contact Mrs Thomas via email <u>sthomas@hollypark.barnet.sch.uk</u>. by Friday of this week - explaining why you need a device. Next week we will then look at who would be in need of loaning one and will prioritise accordingly. The laptop would need to be collected from school and a form completed and signed for by the parent - agreeing to certain terms and conditions. Of course you must have internet and wifi connection at home already. The school cannot help with this.

There seems to be a way to access Google Classroom through the Xbox and Playstation. There is information at the end of this email. This could be helpful to families who are struggling with sharing devices.

<u>Attendance</u>

At Holly Park we monitor attendance regularly. Our attendance is also monitored by school governors, the Local Authority and the DFE. Attendance for the Autumn Term over the last 3 years shows a very pleasing picture and attendance last term despite the COVID situation was still excellent:

Autumn 2017: 95%	Autumn 2018: 96%
Autumn 2019: 97%	Autumn 2020: 97%

Uploading Work or Photos To Google Classroom

A full information sheet about logging in to a Google classroom, viewing tasks and uploading work was emailed out to all pupils in Years I to 6 at the start of the week. A few older children have commented that they are not sure how to post pictures and photos. Please could you help them to do this. The sheet that was emailed had pictures to help **In Summary:** Once you have successfully logged in to your classroom you can see the different home-learning that has been set. Click on '**view assignment'.** Once here you can open any links that have been sent and download them to print out, type onto etc. Once you have finished the assignment and you are happy with it, click on <u>'**+ Add or**</u> **<u>create'</u>** where you can attach photos, videos, documents, website links that you have found to do with the assignment. Once the work has finished uploading click on <u>'**Hand in'.**</u>

Physical Exercise

Joe Wick's morning PE lessons will be on the TV on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9am. Next week please send me photographs of children doing Joe Wicks exercise. I will put them in the newsletter. Send them to me at <u>head@hollypark.barnetmail.ne</u> by Thursday.

Secondly, the daily mile organisation have sent me a fun January exercise bingo card. This is about doing 15 minutes of exercise a day over the month of January. The idea is that when you do a session you cross it off on the bingo board. When you have a full house – you send me a picture of the completed bingo card and I send back a certificate. The Bingo card is attached to this newsletter.





Using Xbox or PlayStation to access Hwb

Accessing your remote learning. An alternative method of accessing remote learning during times of lockdown.

Xbox

- 1. Plug a keyboard in to the Xbox USB slot
- 2. Go in to my games and apps
- 3. Find Microsoft Edge and select
- 4. Type in: Hwb and log in as you would in school

You can then access your work through Google Classroom or OneDrive and use key packages including:

· Word

- Teams
- Excel
- PowerPoint
- Your emails
- 6. To move around you use the Xbox control or plug in a mouse

PlayStation

 Identify the PlayStation internet browser icon (it is WWW with dots around it)

- 2. Press the PlayStation logo on the controller
- 3. Go to the library and find options for games and applications
- 4. Go in to applications and you will find the internet browser
- 5. Type Hwb into the browser and log in as you would in school

You can then access your work through Google Classroom or OneDrive and use key packages including:

- Word
- Teams
- Excel
- PowerPoint
- Your emails

Hwb Digital Learning for Wales