



## Hyde Park Infant School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all keeping well and safe. It has been an interesting week in school, quite unlike any week I have known. The children have adapted well to the frequent handwashing and the need to keep at least 2m apart. I find this one of the hardest elements of our new routines to witness, because it makes it difficult for the children to play together and interact as they would normally. They however are very accepting of the distancing and are just getting on with life. I feel that there is a lesson there somewhere.

### Rainbows

As I walk to school in the morning I have noticed many houses showing the NHS rainbow in their windows. When I get closer to school I know that the rainbows must have been done by infant school pupils past and present. It is very heartwarming so early in the morning. Not to be out done Mrs J Mayes took some of the children out onto The Orchard playground one lunchtime and they drew chalk rainbows.



### Home schooling

I have been thinking about how the school can further support parents in this task. I am very aware that there is a fine line between giving parents the help and support they need and bombarding them with an overwhelming amount of information and options.

The first thing I would like to say is that all the teachers and TAs are very aware that when the children come back to school they will have had different experiences at home and we are already thinking about how we can consolidate and unify the children's learning. So with that in mind we



will be pleased with whatever you achieve at home and we know that it will vary from family to family.

Choose from the following recommendations to support the home learning activities for you child's year group. The first one is a collation of useful websites from the Department of Education. Some of these we already use and I particularly like the White Rose site for maths. Miss Lynes tells me that the White Rose website has a daily maths lesson.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-online-education-resources-for-home-education>

Miss strong has uploaded onto facebook a variety of learning opportunities from looking at the lambs on her parents' farm to naming the parts of a plant using daffodils. Go onto Facebook and follow B-Active Kids Club Exeter links.

One of my favourite websites is called explorify. You can access a limited number of activities without signing up, but it is free to sign up. If you follow the link below you will find video clips for teachers and parents that explain how to get the most out of the activities. For infant aged children I would recommend activities in the "odd one out" category and "Zoom in zoom out". Although all the activities have an age guide with them.

<https://explorify.wellcome.ac.uk/activities>

### **Free School Meal Vouchers**

Despite the best endeavours of staff in school and at the MAT office we have currently had no luck in getting a response that will enable the vouchers to be distributed. They will only be for those parents of children who are entitled to the means tested type of free school meals. We are working hard to resolve this situation as quickly as possible.

### **Next week**

Mrs Hill will be back in the office full time next week and I am sure that she will issue news letter on Friday in the usual way.

I wish you all the best for the Easter Weekend. Best wishes,

Mrs S Degg

### **A note from Mrs Hill**

We really appreciate that many of you are finding it quite challenging to run learning programmes for your child at home as well as carrying out all the usual parenting tasks and keeping yourself and your child(ren) safe. There are already 6+ weeks of learning suggestions on the website and staff will be adding more ideas over the next few weeks. Some parents tell us that they have found that by creating a school type learning timetable/routine is helpful which can be a combination of practical, investigative as well as recording some ideas on paper interspersed with games, reading and physical activities.

If you haven't already done so, please visit Plymouth libraries online where you can log in with you library membership number or join for free. This will give you access to lots of resources and activities.

My staff will be writing a letter to their class and posting it on the school website next week which will be something for the children to look forward to. Staff are also in the process of writing reports for your child which will be issued in July or before if time allows. They will be sent to you electronically and a paper copy can be made available when we return to school if you require it.

I have been receiving a few poems since my last letter and hope that many more children will send in their poems too. I will keep a list of all entrants and award stickers when I next see your child.

Receiving a letter/email is always exciting but it does require sending one too. Children can't meet up with each other although a chat can be a great substitute. I would like to encourage children to write and send a letter/picture to a relative or a friend either electronically or by snail mail with a stamp.

My Head Teacher challenge for this week is to read some poems, choose a favourite and learn it by heart. I will be fantastic to hear poems recited to me when we can return to school.

Kind regards to all the children and their parents/carers

From

Mrs Hill