



14th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

HISN Home Learning

Firstly, thank you for the many positive comments we have received regarding the home learning that is being provided by HISN. These are very welcome for teaching staff who are going above and beyond to ensure high quality provision for all the children they are responsible for.

Thank you also for your support in facilitating learning at home. Your efforts will have made a difference when the children return to school. As a school we recognise the real difficulties that are facing many parents, managing their children learning at home, working themselves and managing life at home and we fully understand how unfair it seems if your child is at home, not learning alongside their peers.

We are thinking of all of the children every day and trying our very best to provide an engaging curriculum content but also to give them a sense of connection to us at this time. Managing a high quality remote learning offer whilst ensuring support for the children in school is a balance and one we are keen to get right. Alongside this ensuring that staff workload is manageable and can be sustained is important.

Ideally all home learning will be ready well before 9am on that day but sometimes technical issues crop up and we are working behind the scenes to deal with them. If this is not the case, please wait until after 9am before emailing the school to alert us.

The DfE released updated guidance last Thursday for all schools regarding the expectations in providing home learning which we are fully compliant with. It gives schools the flexibility to choose how to provide remote learning for children at home whilst stipulating such things as the amount of work required each day and the curriculum coverage.

The school home support platform has been invaluable and as a school we are constantly reviewing our practice and are looking to build upon what we are currently providing. Staff have adapted to providing remote learning and ongoing support is available to staff to ensure they are able to enhance the home learning offer to ensure consistency for children learning at home.

We have considered carefully the most effective way to provide remote learning for the children in our school, taking into consideration their age and how children learn best. The content for each day is a mixture of pre-recorded lessons and practical activities for both EYFS and KS1. The reason for pre-recorded lessons as opposed to 'live' lessons are listed below:

- Lessons that are pre-recorded can be paused and also the lesson can be revisited if the child needs to go back.
- Young children require an adult to support them with their learning, therefore pre-recorded lessons provide more flexibility for parents who are supporting as lessons can be timetabled



to fit in with the dynamics of family life such as working or having more than one child to support with home learning.

- Pre-recorded lessons provide more flexibility for a child who may need their learning in smaller chunks.
- If families have more than one child who is learning from home and one laptop or device, the learning content can be split between the children without time constraints.
- Feedback from parents is that they really appreciate the flexibility that a pre-recorded lesson gives them as they are already managing the juggle at home and a live lesson would be another element to factor into each day.

As a school we do recognise that it is important for children to continue to have connection to school and their class during this period of school closure. We are going to introduce, on a fortnightly basis with the class teacher a 'live' session which will be a shared story for all children in Reception to year 2.

These sessions will take place after school hours between 3:15 and 4pm in the week beginning 25th January and 8th February.

In order for your child to participate, please share the HISN Code of Conduct with them and then please complete the [eform](#) to indicate you agree. If this is not submitted, your child will be unable to join the live sessions. Once we have received your completed eform we will be in touch with the date and time for your child's class and the details of how to access the session. We have also developed a user agreement for live sessions for parents, in line with advice from the local authority safeguarding team. Please do take time to read this document.

We are hugely proud of the staff at HISN. They are dedicated to their classes and are working very hard to provide a broad and balanced curriculum supported with high quality resources for children at home. The professionalism and commitment to the school of the HISN team has once again been demonstrated.

Thank you again for the huge amount of support and understanding you have given the school since the start of this term.

Yours sincerely

Helen Lockey and Claire Tester