



Dear Parents/Guardians

I can hardly believe everything that has happened since I last wrote a newsletter message to you! I hope this newsletter finds you and your families well. These are certainly strange and challenging times for us all.

We are missing all of our pupils so much and I'm sure that they are missing school too. If nothing else, the routine and their friends are missing from their lives and we all know how important these things are for teenagers. At first it might have sounded exciting to our young people, having extra weeks off school: almost like a very long and lovely summer holiday, but of course we now know the reality of living through 'lock-down' is something very different.

Nothing can substitute physically being in school, but we are trying our hardest to provide the pupils with work and materials that they can complete at home to maintain their learning. Today marks the relaunch of our newsletter, which will be posted home to you each week from now on, to give you some clearer guidance on home learning and to act as a celebration of all the amazing work that our pupils are producing at home and in the 'mini-school'.

From next week the newsletter will include guidance for each year group for the coming week on the topics that they should be studying in each subject, and the suggested timings for completing this work.

We know that one of the best ways to learn is to read and it is important that pupils have books available to read at home during this time. To help you with providing an on-going supply of reading materials we will have a selection of library books available for collection from school, and some free stationery. Collection will follow social distancing rules, no need to ring in advance just call into the school office to collect what you need.

Whilst starting to send more detailed information about home learning, we do not want to put our families under any extra pressure. We know how hard these times are for us all. Many of us have our own young children at home and are trying to do school work with them and also complete our own work remotely! We understand how challenging this is. The most important thing is that our children feel comforted, loved and feel that it's all going to be ok. There needs to be a balance for us all in ensuring this *and* completing home learning. I use these words wisely as you are *not* home schooling, that's what we are here for when we do get back to school. You are trying to do your best in the most difficult of circumstances to support your child to learn, to read, to develop.

Hillside is of course, so much more than an actual building, we are a community and even though we can't be together in the building at this time, I hope by receiving this newsletter you and your child will feel the connection with your school and staff.

As a school we have much to be proud of, we have donated our science goggles to Aintree Hospital and Mr Smith and Ms Barclay in technology, have been busy making visors for local GP surgeries and staff on the Covid-19 ward. I am also particularly proud of our lovely 'Thank You' banner which the pupils who are attending mini-school worked on. I know we all echo their thanks in saying a massive thank you to all NHS staff and key workers.

Mrs Amanda Ryan





Home Learning – Quick Guide for Parents and Pupils

We have provided lots of detailed guidance on our website for the Home Learning for each subject. All work should be completed in the Home Learning Exercise book (or an alternative notebook).

Here is a quick guide to what we have available for Home Learning and how to access the resources.

Hillside High Home School Learning Plans and Resources

- This is work set by your teachers in school.
- Go to our school website: www.Hillsidehigh.co.uk
- Then click on *Pupils, Learning Resources, Subject Resources*.
- The 'Home Learning Plan' outlines all the guidance for what you should do, depending on your year group.

In this area you will also find instructions for the pupil email system – this is how teachers are communicating with pupils.

Printed versions of all Hillside High Home Learning resources are available for collection from the main office at school.

Oak National Academy – This is a series of lessons put together by teachers across the UK organised by year group in a daily schedule. These lessons are a great addition to your Hillside Home Learning *as an extra* or to provide some variety.

Go to : www.thenational.academy/online-classroom

Then click on Schedule and choose your year group. This will take you to lessons which are suitable for your year group.

BBC Bitesize Daily Learning

This is a series of lessons put together by teachers across UK organised by year group in a daily schedule. These lessons are a great addition to your Hillside Home Learning *as an extra* or to provide some variety.

Go to: www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/dailylessons OR turn to BBC One on the TV and press the 'red button', follow the guidance and click the links to 'Daily Lessons'. Whether you use the internet or the 'red button' on your TV you will need to select your year group. This will take you to lessons which are suitable for your year group.

Hillside High Twitter

On our Twitter we tweet extra activities for example: highlighting a good programme to watch or a news article to read. We also celebrate pupils' work, so make sure you are following us! @hillside_high

We want all of our pupils to try and engage in short sessions of learning, as much as they can, each day. **Please do not worry if pupils do not complete ALL of this work or do not stick to the schedule on the websites. What we want is for pupils to be thinking as much as possible to keep their brains active. Top Tip - Research shows that the best way that parents can help motivate young people is to talk about 'future goals' as opposed to referring to tests coming up or because it is something you have to do because the school told you.**

Mrs. Wardale

Notice for our parents:

What we are being asked to do is not humanly possible. There is a reason we are either a working parent, a stay-at-home parent, or a part-time working parent. Working, parenting, and teaching are three different jobs that cannot be done at the same time. It's not hard because you are doing it wrong. It's hard because it's too much. Do the best you can.

When you have to pick, because at some point you will, choose connection. Pick playing a game over arguing about an academic assignment. Pick teaching your child to do laundry rather than feeling frustrated that they aren't helping. Pick laughing, and snuggling, and reminding them that they are safe.

If you are stressed, lower your expectations where you can and virtually reach out for social connection. We are in this together to stay well. That means mentally well, too.

- Family psychologist Dr Emily W. King