



Dear Parents/Guardians

It is so hard to find the right words for this week's newsletter.

As we broke up for Christmas following a brilliant and productive term, I never dreamt we would not be welcoming our pupils back to school in January. As a school we are as devastated as you that school has not been able to reopen to all pupils. Whilst I fully accept the difficult decisions the government have to take to keep us all safe, the timing of this latest announcement feels so cruel and last minute. It is important to me that everyone knows how much we are missing having our pupils in school and can't wait to welcome them back as soon as we can.

In much more positive news we have been so impressed with the start our pupils have made to their remote learning. Participation has been high and engagement from pupils in this 'brave new world' of learning has been excellent. It is so important this momentum is maintained by pupils throughout the duration of remote learning. We have made the decision that pupils should be covering new learning as they would in school and this means non-engagement will leave pupils significantly behind their peers when they do return. Please regularly check the 'Remote Learning' section of our website where you will find regular updates and support videos to help with remote learning. There is so much positivity from our teachers about the start pupils have made, lots of which can be seen on our Social Media. If you don't follow us, there will never be a better time to start!

I'm sure I speak on behalf of everyone in our school community when I say we are thinking about the pupils in our current Year 11. This period of uncertainty is extremely difficult for them. Thankfully we have now received official notification that their GCSEs will be cancelled and replaced with Teacher Assessed Grades. This means moving forward, every lesson for these pupils is crucial as they build up a robust evidence base to allow us to get them the grades they deserve and are capable of.

I felt it was appropriate to once again share our 'Team Hillside' rainbow, if ever there was a time when we needed to stay together to get through the challenging times ahead, it is now. These are such uncertain times and to know anything with certainty is a relief...the one thing I do know for sure is 'Team Hillside' working together, supporting each other will get through this. I am once again reminded that our school community, remains our school community, even when we can't be in the building together.

As ever please do not hesitate to contact any member of staff at Hillside if you need anything. Your child's Progress Leader, a member of the school's Leadership Team or their class teacher for questions regarding their lessons are all on hand to help you in anyway we can.

Mrs Amanda Ryan, Principal



*Once again we are told to stay apart,
but 'Team Hillside' always stays together.*

Hillside High School—January 2021

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'Excellence in the Heart of the Community'





Hillside High School A guide to safer LIVE LESSONS



An online lesson occurs when teachers use video conferencing software to 'livestream' lessons. At Hillside we will use Microsoft Teams as the platform for streaming lessons. The opportunity to 'livestream' lessons provides an excellent opportunity to maintain high quality education remotely as it allows learning to take place anywhere with an internet connection. However, live lessons are new to us all as a school community and it is important to read thoroughly the information, we have put together below to make sure that learning can take place in a safe manner for all involved.



Conduct

If you are hosting an online lesson, it is important that you maintain a level of professionalism and treat any online lesson in the same way you would treat a classroom lesson. Dress appropriately and find a setting which has a suitable background (ideally in a classroom, but if working from home would need to consider the background carefully, having no personal information on show). Remind pupils at the start of the lesson of acceptable behaviour and their conduct during the class. It is worth remembering that live streaming means screenshots and videos recordings of your lesson could occur so it is important to maintain professionalism at all times.

Communication

Hosting a live lesson means that you will have to think about how you communicate carefully. We use Microsoft Teams for all communication with pupils. We have chosen this as we know it is a secure platform with the relevant privacy and security settings in place. Any contact should only through Microsoft 365 and not through any personal accounts. During the live lesson pupils are permitted to only communicate with you via the chat box.



Content

Planning your content will be a key factor to consider prior to hosting an online lesson. It is important to ensure that all content is suitably pitched, just as you would when planning a normal lesson. Content should be aligned to the Curriculum Learning Journey. It is advisable to not set pupils off to research using the internet but rather provide links to specific websites which have been checked for suitability. Lessons should follow the guidance as per Remote Learning protocol; teaching segment (using expert instruction and guided practice), assessment task, feedback.



Conduct

It is important to remind your child that despite being at home, the same level of behaviour and conduct exists as if they were at school. Encourage them to remain polite and remember their manners. If at all possible position them in an open environment where you can monitor their activity, preferably not in a bedroom. Remind your child that they should make sure their camera and microphone is switched off for during the lesson, all communication should be via the chat box facility.



Communication

If your child is part of an online lesson they may need some support in getting set up, however, pupils have been trained in using Microsoft Teams in their lessons at school. You will find a guide on our website, within our Remote Learning section to support with this. It is worth you looking and being aware of the platform and how it works so you can understand the security and privacy settings and how to switch on and off cameras and microphones. We ask you to make sure you raise any concerns immediately with school if you are unable to accommodate online lessons or if you have any concerns regarding the provision.



Content

Try to take an interest in your child's live lesson if you are available to do so. Talk to them about who is hosting the lesson and what the lesson is about. Remind your child about being careful if searching the internet for information, if possible ensure parental controls are in place and remind pupils that their teacher will always recommend links to suitable and accurate internet sources if these are required.



What pupils need to consider

Conduct

Being able to access lessons live online is a great way to learn remotely, it is important that we all follow the correct rules and behave appropriately to allow everyone to access the lesson. You should behave with the same level of respect for your peers and teacher that you show in a normal lesson. During live lessons you must switch off your camera and microphone if you have one. When communicating with the teacher on the chat function all comments must be relevant and linked to learning. Any inappropriate comments will mean that you will be subsequently muted by your teacher meaning you can watch the lesson but cannot communicate with your teacher using the chat function.



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Content

The most important thing about online lessons is that you engage fully with the content. Your teacher is teaching you new knowledge and skills and in order to learn effectively you need to pay attention. We have learnt in school that learning will only happen if you pay sole attention to the new content. Switch off all other devices so you can focus on just the one lesson. You will be learning content and skills that is part of your normal school curriculum, it is important to work just as hard at home as you would do in school to ensure that you do not fall behind.





Service and Resources

We would like to remind all pupils and their families that we are available to support or sign post support throughout this unsettling period. Below is a list of useful contacts within the community that parents/guardians may wish to access.

Our Progress Leaders and pastoral staff will be making regular welfare calls to all pupils who are working from home and please do not hesitate to contact any member of staff if you need anything and we will endeavour to help.

Childline 08001111

NSPCC- www.nspcc.org.uk 08448920264 (Liverpool Office) NSPCC Helpline 08088005000

cruse.org.uk- coping with a bereavement

www.trusselltrust.org -Foodbank

South Sefton Foodbank—0151 933 1300

Liverpool Social Care- 233 3700

Sefton Social Care- 0845 140 0845

SWACA—Monday-Friday 9.30am—5.00pm, Tel: 0151 922 8606, www.help@swaca.com

The Life Rooms—0151 478 6556

National Domestic Abuse Helpline—0808 2000 247, www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk

South Sefton Food Bank—St Leonard's Youth & Community Centre, 60 Peel Road, L20 4RW,

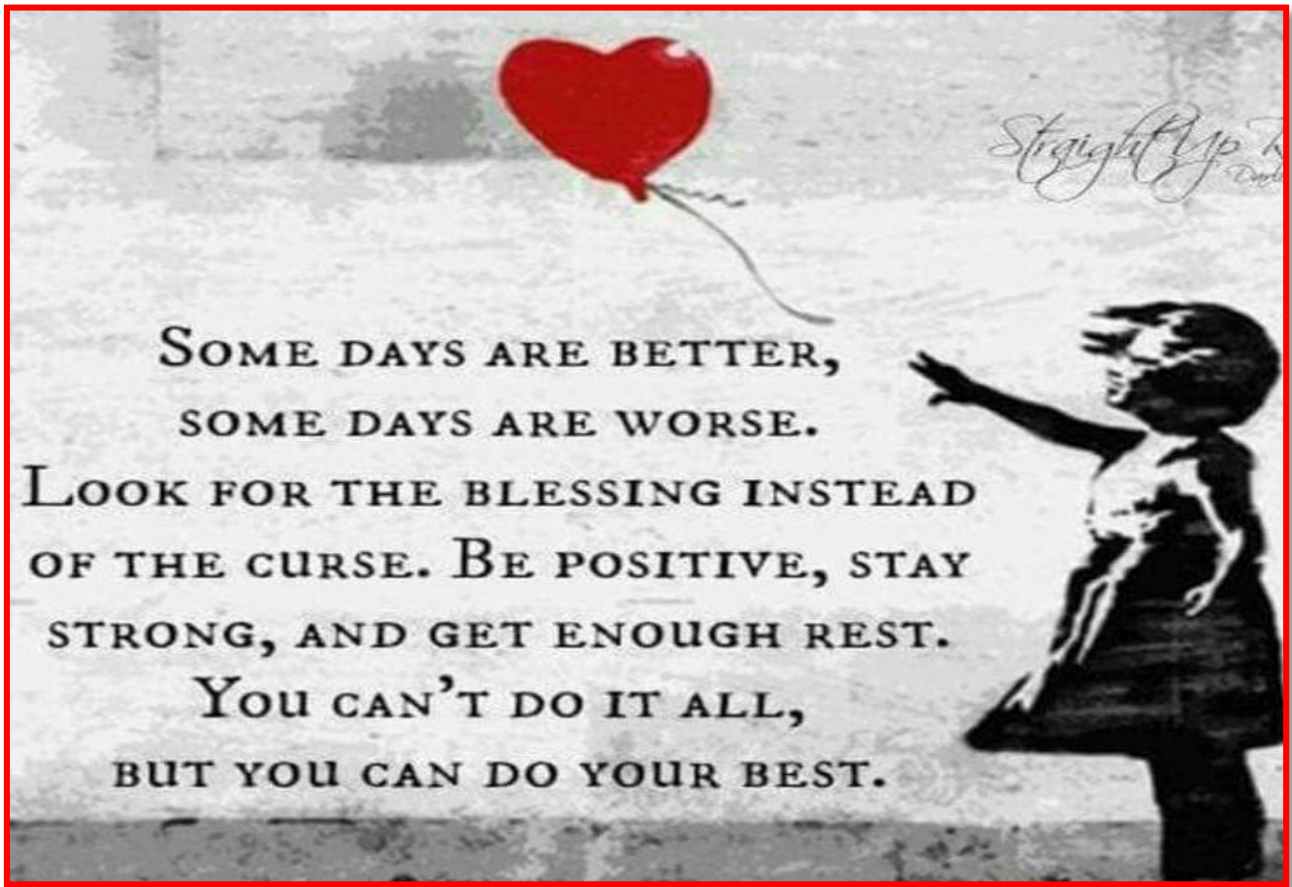
infor@southseftonfoodbank.org.uk—Tel 0151 933 1300

Sefton CAMHS Support—Alder Hey Crisis Care Team has a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week helpline. 0151 293 3577 or freephone 0808 196 3550

Parenting 2000—Counselling and Family Support, www.parenting2000.org.uk, info@parenting2000.org.uk, Tel 07834 524 956 or 07464 544 314

Safe Regeneration—Waverley Street, Bootle L20 4AP—Please visit facebook page and leave a message.

SWAN Women's Centre—Twitter, Facebook and Instagram pages.



ACTION CALENDAR: HAPPIER JANUARY 2021



MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY



"Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony" - Gandhi

4 Write a list of things you feel grateful for in life and why

5 Look for the good in others and notice their strengths

6 Take five minutes to sit still and just breathe

7 Learn something new and share it with others

8 Say positive things to the people you meet today

9 Get moving. Do something physically active (ideally outdoors)

10 Thank someone you're grateful to and tell them why

11 Switch off all your tech 2 hours before bedtime

12 Connect with someone near you - share a smile or chat

13 Be gentle with yourself when you make mistakes

14 Take a different route today and see what you notice

15 Eat healthy food which really nourishes you today

16 Get outside and notice five things that are beautiful

17 Contribute positively to a good cause or your community

18 Focus on what's good, even if today feels tough

19 Get back in contact with an old friend you miss

20 Go to bed in good time and give yourself time to recharge

21 Take a small step towards an important goal

22 Try out something new to get out of your comfort zone

23 Plan something fun and invite others to join you

24 Put away digital devices and focus on being in the moment

25 Decide to lift people up rather than put them down

26 Say hello to a neighbour and get to know them better

27 Challenge your negative thoughts and look for the upside

28 Ask other people about things they've enjoyed recently

29 Use one of your personal strengths in a new way

30 Count how many people you can smile at today

31 Write down your hopes or plans for the future

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS



www.actionforhappiness.org

Learn more about this month's theme at www.actionforhappiness.org/happier-january

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