



High Peak Federation



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NEWSLETTER 150121

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to everyone who has passed on messages of support during the last two weeks – we have been very humbled by the kind words and all are shared with the staff across the Federation. We would also like to pass on our support for everyone, whether at home or in school, who is trying their best during these very challenging times.

Home Learning

The staff have been working incredibly hard to plan, prepare and deliver learning for all the children. This is a huge task and staff have put in extra time, on top of their usual significant workload, to get everything in place. As this week has progressed, everything seems to be falling better in to place as we iron out glitches and get used to timetables and routines. We have tried to create systems that both comply with DfE expectations and also meet the needs of the majority, but appreciate that it will not suit everyone the same as home circumstances, access to technology and personal preferences are not uniform. Please continue to use T2P and email to raise any questions you have, as we see those more quickly and can therefore reply much sooner too. The introduction of Zoom sessions have also been a useful addition to the home learning offer and I need to commend staff for taking this on – especially as several were new to setting up and hosting sessions. These Zoom meetings are helping us to keep in touch with one another and also allows staff, and especially the older children, to engage in useful dialogue and feedback about learning too. We have delivered learning packs where requested and have applied for devices, free SIM cards with additional data and 4G routers for those who have been in touch, as requested, to explain that support with technology would be appreciated.

Children in School

We have many more children in school than during the first 'lockdown' and the message that 'schools are closed' is far from the truth! The children in school have been working hard and continuing to follow all the necessary protocols to keep as safe as possible. We have offered places for all that have needed them. Where you have requested a place for your child, please remember to let us know ASAP if your child is not attending on a day we are expecting to see them as we still need to authorise attendances and cancel school meals due.

Additional Challenge

There are expectations placed on schools, since the start of last week, that have also increased our workload. These include preparing and delivering food hampers, applications for technology, completing daily registers for DfE of the exact breakdown of all staff and pupil circumstances and attendance, organising cover for colleagues who need to self-isolate / shield and manage the increase in correspondence between school and home. We have supported each other to manage this, but still have our day-to-day usual business to attend to as well. We have written to our local MP - Robert Langan to let



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him know how we could have been better supported by the DfE. Thank you to the parents who let us know they have contacted Ofsted...to let them know we were doing a great job!

Well-being

We know that some children are struggling more than others at the moment. We can offer regular check-ins with someone at school, or have some provision for Art Therapy / Counselling from external providers too. Please email if this is something you would like to discuss and we will be happy to get back in touch.

Formal Assessments

We have been notified that all assessments due to take place during the 2020-21 term have been cancelled. As in previous years, we liaise closely with the high schools receiving our Year Six children earlier in the Summer Term anyway, so not completing SATs will not affect transition at all.

National Lockdown and CV19 Testing

Please continue to follow the latest rules to keep us all as safe as possible. We are expecting school staff to be offered regular testing in the coming weeks, but only secondary pupils (not primary children) will be tested at school.

Thank you all again for your continued support.

Mr Parry and the High Peak federation Team



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