



Hill Top Primary Academy
Batley Road, West Ardsley, Wakefield, WF3 1HD
Principal: Mrs Karen Hyams
Deputy Principal: Mrs Joanne Lancaster
Tel: (0113) 3074750
E-Mail: office@hilltopprimary.org.uk
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17 April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers and Pupils,

I hope that you have managed to have a break and some rest over the Easter holiday and that this e-newsletter finds you all well.

Firstly a few reminders to support Parents/Carers

I want to thank you all for continuing to observe the government guidelines to stay home and stay safe as well as social distancing, which can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>. This has allowed Hill Top to remain open for a very small number of pupils who need our support over the Easter holiday. Thanks to the staff who gave up their time to allow this to happen.

We also know that some families may find themselves in hardship or becoming eligible for free school meals due to changes in circumstances. The Academy has signed up to the Government's voucher scheme which is still having some teething problems, so we are using Asda vouchers in the interim period. If you have any difficulties with this or find yourself requiring support we would ask that you contact office@hilltopprimary.org.uk or help@hilltopprimary.org.uk or contact the school by phone on 0113 3074750.

As we return to online learning, please remember to monitor your child's usage to keep them safe from online abuse and unwanted contact. Links to information and support around safe online practice can also be found at this link <https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/checklists/>. We continue to recommend that phones and other devices are not in bedrooms overnight, particularly for younger children. If any issues arise, apps will have reporting mechanisms built in. There is also the option of reporting directly to CEOP. School will still remain a point of contact for support should you require it and if you have any concerns please email Mrs Hyams on office@hilltopprimary.org.uk.

I want to take this opportunity to speak directly to Hill Top pupils and to welcome them back to their learning from Monday 20 April.

I know things are very difficult for you all and it can be hard to continue your learning when you are not in school or there is no teacher in front of you to explain things.

As you know, your work is set each day and is sent back by you through our email that has been set up. Teachers will then have a look at the work you are doing and are then planning the next set of work. This will continue throughout our time away from school.



I understand that the devices and resources to which you have access may be different from one pupil to the next. I know that some of you are sharing resources with siblings and parents who might be working from home. I appreciate that this may make completing certain tasks that have been set more difficult for some of you. So, please do your best and be assured that your teachers will understand if what you are able to submit might be slightly different to other pupils. It is totally acceptable for you to handwrite and photograph your work to send to your teacher instead if you are unable to type work out. Please remember that not every piece of work needs to be completed on a computer. Some of you are concerned about how long you should be spending on your work or are finding that you are not getting through everything your teacher has set you. Please bear in mind that your teachers are setting work for everyone in the class and we know you may work at a different pace to others. In short, we are trusting you to do the work as best you can and to ask for help if you need it. My advice is to plan your day and complete what you can in that time. Remember to give yourself some breaks, after all you do have these when you are at school, and build in some activities that you enjoy.

I would also like to put in a plea for your parents as well. They are just that; your parents. We are not asking them to be your teacher. They are there to support you and I would like to thank them for doing just that. Remember, if you are really struggling, drop your teacher an email and they will see how they can help you but please don't get stressed and worried. Your teacher is making notes of work you have found difficult so we can look at these areas again when school starts back.

I hope that this helps you all. I am so proud of all of you, the work you are doing and the way you are all handling these difficult times. You and your Parents/Carers are being amazing and I am missing you all so very much – a school is just another empty building without all the parts that make it so special and unique and that's you, your families and all the Teachers and Teaching Assistants. As we start the Summer Term, in very strange circumstances, please take care and stay safe.

*Missing you all,
Mrs Hyams
Principal*



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