

January 2021 Covid Lockdown Newsletter

Dear Parents, Carers and Wider School Community,

Having spent the Christmas holidays and the inset day planning and setting up for our primary school to be fully open as insisted upon by the government, it was rather a poleaxe moment at 8pm last night to hear that the forthcoming school closure that we all anticipated in the near future, was actually coming into force the very next morning, giving us eleven hours to make enormous changes.

However, in true New Hinksey spirit by 10.15pm all critical worker and vulnerable children had been contacted, all staff briefed and seven covid safe bubbles had been set up and planned for. This morning (Tuesday) we are up and running for those groups in school and have initiated our **Distance Learning Protocol** with staff working at 200% capacity in their classrooms providing for the children in school and assigning activities for home learning via Google Classroom for pupils from Reception to Year 6. Our **Distance Learning Protocol** has been on the website for some time now but is copied below for those who have not seen it. The latest government guidance is that around 3 hours of home learning activities and tasks should be assigned for each day.

New Hinksey C.E. Primary School Distance Learning Protocol

This protocol has been written as **guidance for staff and parents** during the on-going COVID-19 pandemic. It sets out the technology and other resources that staff will use to keep the learning experience going for children, how this can be delivered effectively and safely whilst allowing for the different needs of families.

A flexible approach

Keeping regular learning going during the period that schools are closed is of great importance to reduce the impact on children's education, however we understand that everyone's circumstances at home will be different. Some families have one child to support whilst others have several. Some households have one device to share whilst others have more. Working patterns vary with some parents working from home, others doing shift patterns or caring for elderly relatives. **Furthermore, children's ability to work independently will vary greatly depending on age and maturity.** With this in mind we will offer a variety of learning activities across the curriculum broken down into daily tasks so that pupils can work their way through as much as they are able at a time that suits them.

When might Distance Learning be needed?

- In the event of a full lockdown when the government directs schools to close
- In the event of significant staff absence meaning school cannot be safely kept open to pupils
- When a positive case of covid in school necessitates the closure of a bubble/class/year group/phase
- When individuals or sibling groups have been instructed to self-isolate for 14 days as a result of a positive case in their household or other close contact

What will the school provide?

Google Classroom will be used as an online learning platform **for bubble closure and for full school closure. Every child has taken home a letter with details of this and their login and password details. Key Stage 1 and 2 children have familiarised with Google Classroom in school.**

Class teachers will be responsible for assigning work activities, resources and instructions so that there are daily maths and English learning activities, a variety of other subject tasks over the week and some general ongoing learning expectations such as daily reading, learning spellings and times tables.

Google Classroom allows for work to be submitted (turned-in) and for staff to give feedback and support.

Texts books, workbooks, sheets, reading books may also be sent home in **Learning Packs** if the timing and circumstances of the school or bubble closure allow the packs to be handed over or delivered safely.

The school website will also be used to signpost families to a variety of wider learning opportunities to supplement those in Google Classroom in the event of school or bubble closure.

For individuals who are quarantining for medical purposes for 14 days and therefore not in school, a blended package will be appropriate with some learning being assigned to them on Google Classroom and some learning being given in the form of a Learning Pack, and some instruction may be emailed to parents. This will be available within 24 hours of the start of their absence from school. If parents have planned and chosen to take their children out of school for holidays knowing that they will have to miss two weeks of school for quarantining on return to this country, staff will not provide remote learning. In these cases parents should use the Oak National Academy or BBC Bitesize online learning resources.

In all cases where learning is being assigned through Google Classroom please note that there will be a mix of activities – some working directly on the screen, some directing you to other online activities and web based learning, and some giving instruction for tasks that are not screen based.

On-line safety

With the increased use of digital technologies, safeguarding implications need careful consideration. Parents are advised to spend time speaking to their children about online safety and reminding them of the importance of reporting to an adult anything that makes them feel uncomfortable online. Whilst we will do our best to ensure links shared are appropriate, there may be tailored advertising which displays differently in your household or other changes beyond our control.

The following websites offer useful support: [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - to report and remove harmful online content and [CEOP](#) - for advice on making a report about online abuse.

Any problems

If you have a query or difficulty we ask that you communicate with the class teacher using their school email address and we will make every effort to help and support you.

Teacher	Class	Email address
Polly Hodgson	Robins	PHodgson@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk
Miss Martins	Finch	TMartins@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk
Miss Kilpatrick	Owl	mkilpatrick@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk
Mrs Tucker	Dove	rtuc1220@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk
Mrs Nash	Woodpecker	hnas4139@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk
Miss Potier	Kingfisher	hpot9071@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk
Ms Christensen	Kingfisher	lchr9699@new-hinksey.oxon.sch.uk

I am sure some families are disappointed that they have no childcare and the situation is extremely difficult for everyone. **We are all trying to support the very serious public health obligation to have as many people stay at home, to limit numbers in school and reduce social contact as we all need to play our part in getting the soaring infection rates under control and protecting ourselves, our families and the communities we live and work in.**

We shall continue to put a weekly newsletter onto the school website for the foreseeable future and urge parents to look at this to keep up to date, as well as using Google Classroom and class teacher emails to find assigned work, messages and maintain specific contact.

Urgent Request about Parent Pay

If your child is not in school but you have already been onto ParentPay and pre booked lunches for this term, please could parents go back on and cancel all the pre booked lunches. That would be very helpful and in your best interest so you are not charged for meals that can no longer be taken! Thank you.

Best wishes from us all at New Hinksey School