Fenstanton and Hilton Primary School and Nursery

Newsletter: 15th January, 2021

A message from the Headteachers:

What an unusual two weeks it has been here at FHPS! Welcome again to Mrs Gentle, Miss Stone and Mrs Gore-Rowe our new Deputy Head.

Mrs Gore-Rowe has been starting to get to know the children that are in school, has met with all teachers to discuss every child and their needs and been supporting in planning our Home Learning Support.

Google Classrooms & Home Learning:

It has been great to see so many children interacting with Google Classroom. We have had the opportunity to join every Google Classroom, see the work that is being set and the work the children are submitting - Well done everyone. We will continue to work with the team to develop consistency and further improve provision across the classes. Look out for our Reading Bingo Challenge.

As you will have seen we have been developing our Home Learning provision. Thank you for the positive feedback about the changes so far. We intend to:

- Publish a 'Page-A-Day' overview with links to the various activities and resources - this makes it easier for children to navigate their learning.
- Staff have also been developing Google Slides presentations, to make it

easier for children to work through the content and task independently.

- Staff are making use of the Oak National Academy & White Rose resources that are being used nationally.
- Our Calculation policy is on our website which should also help work through Maths Learning.
- Weekly assemblies are now being delivered - it was great to see so many of you at the Celebration assembly today! (We will work out the glitches with access!)

From next week:

- There will be a Meet and Greet for every class each week - a link to these will be added to the Google Classrooms. These are timetabled so that families with more than one child can all access.
- Staff will be sharing a welcome message on Google Classrooms.
- There will be recorded video content to help with the learning.
- We will be holding online meetings with children and classes in the coming weeks. The notification of these meetings will be on the class stream. I know the staff are looking forward to seeing you all.
- We will ensure that all children get some direct contact and feedback/support from staff. Your child's class

teacher will be in touch to let you know when and how this support will run.

- Learning Packs of physical learning resources have been set up this week and you will all receive an invite for when you can come to school to collect these next week.
- Further up the school, the staff are adding collaborative documents, Google Slides and Jamboards where children can record their ideas for staff to see and allow the children to work together even though they are all apart.

Please remember when there is a virtual class meeting:

- Children need to be dressed appropriately, as they would be for school,
- Where possible they should be supervised by an adult.
- Ensure you are muted when in the meeting and put your hand up to speak using the buttons at the bottom of the screen.

Support for parents:

We hope to be providing more interactivity, guidance and support so that children can approach their work more independently. Don't worry if your child is finding something difficult – you can send a private message to the teacher on your child's class work page and we will try to help in any way we can.

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There are lots of additional sources of support and learning opportunities being provided online and on the BBC.

Don't worry if your child doesn't complete all the work. The government expectation is that children in KS1 should have at least 3 hours learning and children in KS2 have at least 4 hours but we know just how difficult it is to work from home and teach, support and guide your children so just do what you can, and keep smiling.

All parents and carers are invited to join us for a 'Coffee & Catch-up' - an opportunity for parents to chat with each other and staff. We can share tips for what is working well, ask questions and seek advice for any home learning challenges. Your feedback is very important to us in further developing our provision.

You can join the Google Meet using this link: <u>https://meet.google.com/cid-</u> fgrn-xip

Communications:

Please remember that many staff are in school teaching and it may not be possible for your child's class teacher to respond immediately. Response and feedback to pupils is being timetabled between the Teachers and Teaching Assistants that are not in school.

Please also be aware that although the Headteachers and Deputy are linked to every classroom, they are unable to respond to messages via the Google classroom (to give you an idea, there have been over 1000 messages from the classrooms since the start of term!)

Please contact us via the school office.

Help with mobile data costs:

You will have heard in the news recently that the government is offering support to eligible families for online learning at home. This support could be in terms of supplying a family with a device or supplementing the cost of internet usage. There is a strict criteria to meet for this additional support to be issued. If you do not have fixed broadband please contact us.

<u>Critical Worker and</u> <u>Vulnerable Learner places in</u> school:

Thank you again for all your support during this time. Please remember that the current advice is: if you can, stay at home. We have had an overwhelming demand for critical worker childcare. If you don't need the provision, please don't take the space of someone who might.

Our children are little heros, too.

Missing their grandparents, extended family, friends and school. Lack of normal routines. Loss of structure to their day. Parents who are stressed, worried, scared and just different.

> Overhearing talk and news without an understanding of what they hear.

Give your little hero more cuddles, nore one-on-one playtime, and an extra dose of patience and forgiveness.