



Heathfield Primary School
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Headteacher: Mr M D Thornley BSc (Hons)

Tuesday 14th April

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all safe and well and managing to adjust to the new 'normal'. This is a very unusual time and my priority remains that everyone in the Heathfield Family are safe and healthy.

For some families they will be playing their role by staying at home to limit the spread of the virus; to protect our NHS. Others may be working on the front line ensuring vital services can continue and Heathfield is supporting these parents with childcare. Whatever your role, we are working together, as a community, as a nation to ensure we get through this.

At Heathfield, we talk about '**Learning together; Learning for life**' and this has never meant more. We are all doing our bit, together, to ensure we get through this pandemic, supporting each other until we can be together again. Times like this that really test our character, our '**Heathfield Heart**' and again the traits we celebrate and develop at school are so important now. Being effective **self-managers** – managing our time, routine, learning, physical and mental health, being disciplined not to leave the house unless it is essential. **Resourceful thinkers** - being creative with the resources and time that we have at home, whether this be playing a board game, creating a meal from ingredients found at the back of the cupboard or using real experiences to support learning and development of new skills such as gardening. And of course, being an effective **team worker** has never been more essential – being together in a confined space is difficult, we need to show respect to each other throughout this time.

We spoke about the Coronavirus in the weeks building up to school closures, but a lot has happened since and I don't think any of us could have fully articulated what it would be like. Some children will find this time confusing; it will be an anxious time for some. Not being able to see friends or family, routines disrupted and the reality that this is not an 'extended holiday' will be starting to sink in. There is no quick fix to this other than acknowledging your child's feelings, providing reassurance and trying to get into your own routine.

However, the routine of one family will look very different to that of another. Many parents will still be working full time from home, entertaining their children, home schooling and looking after vulnerable relatives and it will all get too much very quickly. I cannot control many of these but I can offer reassurance about home learning. Children should be accessing the resources teachers are putting online each day– the activities have been selected so that your child can practice skills they have been taught and this will help to keep things ticking over **but as well as this, there are many other activities that you could be doing with your child that is also home learning**, such as: Reading a book together, cooking and baking, planning and preparing meals, gardening, using a washing machine, film nights, science experiments, travel the world via google maps, go on virtual tours of museums, art galleries and zoos, look at old photographs and tell stories, write letters to friends and family, play board games, make up quizzes, make up stories, talk - appreciate together the value of NHS workers, delivery drivers, supermarket workers just to name a few, enjoy the simple things like sitting near a window in the quiet, notice the different birds in the garden, the dates different flowers emerge – be a resourceful thinker!



For now, focus on what feels right for you and your family – trust your instinct. You may not be able to do everything. Yours and your child's mental wellbeing is the priority. This period of time and the feelings we have about it will remain with us all forever so try and have fun together, value the additional time and take each week as it comes. We are all in this together. We will be ok. When we return, we will celebrate being back together and we will continue to meet your child's learning needs like we have always done.

Teachers will continue to upload daily learning tasks on the school website under the class page www.heathfield.eschools.co.uk and make sure you follow us on Twitter and Facebook where we are uploading interesting links, resources and ideas that you can build into your routine.

School leaders have been trying to get in touch with all parents whose children are eligible for free school meals. (Not Universal Free school meals for Reception, Year 1 and 2). We need to confirm your email address so that we can arrange vouchers. If you have not been contacted and you think you should have been, please send an email to the address below. Despite ordering the vouchers at the start of last week, they have not been sent to parents as of yet. They will arrive; there have been issues with the system the government is using but I have been assured they have used the Easter weekend to make improvements. If anyone has any concerns with regards getting food, please get in touch.

This week members of staff will be contacting all parents to 'check in' to make sure you and your family are ok. It will be great to talk with the children also. **The telephone calls will come from an 'unknown' number** but please answer the call.

If you want to get in touch with me (or any member of staff), you can contact me directly via email at events@heathfield.bolton.sch.uk I will continue to put the government daily update on the school website (Parent info; Coronavirus updates)

Stay safe,

Yours sincerely

Mr. M D Thornley

Headteacher