

Wednesday 29th April

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope everyone is safe and well.

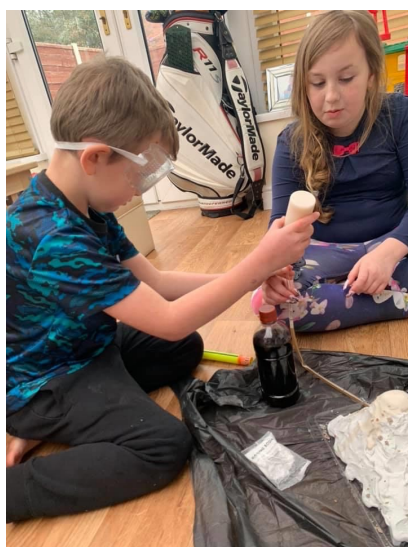
There is no denying that this is a tough time and with the change in weather we are forced to spend more time indoors yet despite this it is great to see so many families using this time creatively. As I shared in my first letter, this time will look very different for each family. Different families will have very different routines and priorities. This is ok. Do not feel the pressure to compare your situation with anyone else's. Some parents have expressed concern about their children falling behind with their education. This is an understandable concern but one that you should not worry about. Every child is in the same boat nationally and internationally. Children are being provided with daily tasks that are planned deliberately with practice in mind. Practicing and recalling previously taught knowledge and skills is vital for learning – ensuring knowledge is being stored in long term memory. This will provide a solid platform for children to build upon once school re-opens.

As well as this your children are able to advance in so many other ways developing new practical skills and developing character. Standing on a Thursday evening for example, clapping for NHS workers, that ability to empathise, appreciate and respect others. To reiterate from my first letter, children can learn to be effective **self-managers** – managing 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. **As a result of lockdown we could really enrich children's character and this is equally as important for 'life long learning'**

It has been great to see how so many families are using this time. Thank you for sharing some of these via email, facebook and twitter (@HeathfieldCP)

Here are some of the things families are doing, not all linked to school work but just as productive!





“We are also using our hour of exercise to try to teach ... how to ride his bike without stabilisers”

“We have transformed our trampoline into a relaxing chill out zone so that they can go and have quiet time, it's also come in very useful for story time at the end of each day”

Video on facebook (@HeathfieldCP) made by a family retelling the story of St. George's Day.

Clearly there is lots of cooking going on – don't forget to send us your recipes for our Heathfield Recipe Book!

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)

Best wishes to everyone in the Heathfield Family, Stay safe,

Yours sincerely

Mr. M D Thornley

Headteacher