

18th January 2021

Dear Parents,

Term 3 update

Congratulations!

You have all successfully completed two weeks of home schooling. I cannot thank you all enough for the incredible support that we can see you are giving your children during this time. We could not do this without you! Please know that we absolutely understand that there may well be technical difficulties and work commitments which make home schooling challenging for you. We are setting the amount of work which is expected by government; however, we understand that this may not all get completed. We also want you to look after your wellbeing and make the most of teaching moments you may not even realise are happening when you bake a cake or go for a walk for example!

You may well have noticed a few changes on TEAMS. We have recently had training on the use of the platform. One of the first actions we have taken is to organise the work a little better so that it is (hopefully) easier for you to locate. This has been done through having separate subject ‘channels’ and also by creating tabs at the top of the TEAM post page so you can find work at a glance.

Please can we ask that your children are supervised while using TEAMS. We have had some instances where we have had to manage the posts being added by children. We are also aware that the children can ‘call’ and ‘chat’ to each other. This needs to be overseen to make sure that all children stay safe online. We politely request that the children briefly greet each other in the morning (if they wish) and then post when needed about their learning as appropriate. Any other liaison should be kept off screen please so that this makes it easier for everyone to find work etc.

Further technical updates

- We have recently paid to *increase our broadband* speed which has resulted in smoother use of video calls in TEAMS- particularly when there is more than one person online.
- We have also developed our learning platforms so that this helps better support home learning and opportunities for catch up. In particular: *Sirlinalot* for spelling and *Purple Mash*. In addition, you will find *Serial Mash* (on Purple Mash) this will now give you access to many texts your child can read.
- We are also moving over to *Office 365*. The migration has not yet taken place; however, when it does this will mean that every member of staff and every child will have an Office 365 log in which will give them access to the Office suite- including as a start: Word, Excel, Publisher, PowerPoint and TEAMS. They will have this access whether they are in school or at home. This will make editing and saving work (by use of Onedrive) so much easier. I will update you further when the migration has taken place so that we can get your children set up. It may mean that we have to ‘start afresh’ with TEAMS- however, it will mean that the children have their own email and log in for this which will be more secure than using parent emails etc particularly if you have more than one child in school and multiple users causes confusion!

Free School Meals

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals then you will soon be receiving vouchers. We are using the government’s national voucher system- Enred. This will offer you £15 per week per child. We will try and order the vouchers in one batch, to cover up until February half term.

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals and is attending school, you will still be offered the vouchers.

Contact us

Website – www.hollingbourne.kent.sch.uk

Telephone – 01622 880270

E-mail – office@hollingbourne.kent.sch.uk

Find us

Eyhorne St Hollingbourne

Maidstone ME17 1UA

Hollingbourne Primary School



“A learning community– developing hearts and minds”

If your child is an infant and is attending school, you can either provide your own packed lunch, or you can request one from us. Our kitchen is currently closed; however, we are able to provide our own lunches for your child should you wish.

Thank you all for your ongoing support for me, my team and the school.
Yours sincerely,
Mrs Bradley-Wyatt
Headteacher

Care needed

Please complete by adding pick up times and drop of times.

Name of child:

W/C 23.3.2020	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
<u>Morning</u>					

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<u>Afternoon</u>					
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W/C 30.3.2020	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
<u>Morning</u>					
<u>Afternoon</u>					

If holiday provision is needed please outline below.

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