



HAZLEHEAD SCHOOL
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HEAD TEACHER: MRS. JONES

“When you believe in yourself, anything is possible.”



Friday 8th January 2021

“The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today.”

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

A very Happy New Year to all our staff and families. I hope that everyone was able to enjoy some well deserved downtime despite the restrictions in place. As pupils officially start school on Monday after an extended week holiday, it is with regret that it is not in the manner that we would have wished. Due to ongoing concerns about the increase in coronavirus infections, pupils will stay at home to undertake online learning, similar to the initial lockdown back in March 2020. At this present moment, we have been informed by the First Minister that home learning will be in place for at least the whole of January.

Whilst this period of uncertainty is very daunting for all, I draw strength and take comfort in the fact that we have a fantastic team here at Hazlehead who will ensure that the high quality learning for your child continues to take place remotely. Staff have been incredibly busy over the past week planning and working collaboratively to get their Google Classrooms set up for Monday. As a team, we are far more confident using Google Classroom and the associated suite of apps available. This will be a great advantage for the weeks ahead.

I also hope that our pupils and parents feel less anxious, having worked this way before. I was immensely proud of all our families who embraced digital learning last March as it was new territory for everyone. Please do not worry if there are aspects of online learning that you have forgotten or if you are a new parent who has not worked in this manner before – we are here to help you every step of the way.

As before, I am aware that every family's circumstances will differ throughout this period so I understand that some pupils may not be able to log in every day. However, if your child has not logged on to complete the learning over a few days, the school will email you just to check that everything is ok. It is paramount that clear, strong lines of communication are established so that we can support you and your child throughout the period of school closure. **Please do not hesitate in contacting us if there is an issue. We do not want virtual learning to add stress or pressure to home life.** It is pertinent at this point to also note that while staff are happy to be emailed by parents, they will respond when they can which may or may not be during school hours, depending on their own personal situation.

Finally, as you may be aware, we have some of our pupils undertaking their online learning in our school premises. Scottish schools are required to have a hub for pupils whose parents are key workers with specific set criteria. Aberdeen City schools are allowing pupils who met specific criteria to attend the Hazlehead hub which will be staffed appropriately.

As before, I will send out weekly newsletter to keep you updated with school information, making any adjustments required as the local and national picture changes.

Together, we will get through this!

Take care

Barbara Jones 😊

A Guide to Learning at Home: A Reminder



How can I learn more about Google Classroom?

- This are a number of tutorials on YouTube on Google Classroom for Parents. You may want to have a look at some of them for more information about the programme. Just search for 'Google Classroom tutorials for parents' and a list will come up.

What is the difference between the stream and classwork?

- The stream is basically like a twitter feed of all the public posts and assignments. It just keeps going with the most recent posts at the top. Please remember that the stream should be used appropriately as guided by your child's teacher. Classwork is more organised and work can be filed by category making it easier to find. Also, when pupils click on assignment they can post private comments to the teacher.

What type of learning will take place?

- Your child will be asked to complete a number of pieces of learning each day. Further information will be given in next week's newsletter regarding our online curriculum as we endeavour to ensure that our regular weekly features of assembly, incredible work and ethos block take place.

What type of feedback will my child have on their submitted learning?

- Your child's teacher will always acknowledge receipt of your child's learning. Feedback will be given as is felt is appropriate to age and stage of the pupils.

I'm still experiencing technical issues. What should I do?

- Please contact Miss. Beard via email – CBeard@aberdeencity.gov.uk

My child is in the nursery so they don't have Google Classroom. What should my child be doing?

- The nursery staff will add learning activities on the nursery page of the school website as well as the ILD. Parents will receive a notification on their child's ILD on Monday with further information on learning. Parents can record their child's engagement via the ILD so that staff can see how they are getting on.

Further Information

- Every class will have a question of the day posted in the classroom stream. This is effectively our daily register. Your child should submit their response by 9.30am. If your child is unwell, please contact the school office as is normal procedure to let us know.
- Google Meets will still happen to allow pupils and their teacher to connect and keep in touch. Our support staff are also available and will be working with individuals as guided by the class teacher.
- If you require a jotter for your child to complete their work, please let us know. You can apply on our website (<https://www.hazlehead-ps.aberdeen.sch.uk/requests/jotters/>) and a member of staff will drop this at your home for your child.
- It is important for all pupils to remain active during this period as evidence strongly supports the positive impact this has on mental, emotional and physical wellbeing. As well as our weekly P.E programme, further ideas on keeping active can be found by visiting the following link: https://www.ukcoaching.org/our-campaigns/parents?utm_source=enewsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=greatcoaching-newsletter&utm_term=jan-070120
- If you have any issues, please contact your child's class teacher by Gmail. Please remember that you also have your class rep and Parent Council available should you wish to discuss any school related matters,
- Further digital guidance for parents can be found by visiting the following link (<https://sites.google.com/ab-ed.org/parent-learning-hub.>)