



Friday 8th January 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

Re: Spring term 2021

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year and all the very best for 2021; let's all hope that this is a much better year than the last one and I hope we all stay safe and well in these challenging times.

School Closure

The Prime Minister's announcement on Monday 4th January 2021, regarding the third national lockdown and school closures, had not been communicated with schools before being televised on Monday night. Up until this point we had been planning to open as normal from Tuesday morning, and therefore we have had to make adaptations and put systems in place very quickly in order to respond to the rapidly changing situation without any prior warning or communication from the Department for Education.

You will now be aware that all schools will be closed during this half term for all children, except for children of critical workers and those who have been identified as vulnerable. Hampton College Primary will remain closed until at least Monday 22nd February, in accordance with current government restrictions. During this time please can we ask all of our families to support the national restrictions and only leave home for essential purposes. Further guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>.

Overwhelmingly, the most important message of this lockdown is the Public Health advice to **Stay at Home > Protect the NHS > Save Lives**. You will have seen the growing number of coronavirus cases both locally and nationally, which have increased rapidly since December 2020; if we all play our part we can help to minimise the spread of coronavirus, protect our NHS from being overwhelmed and save lives.

Critical workers and vulnerable children

Hampton College Primary will remain open during this period of national lockdown for the **children of critical workers and vulnerable children only**, who are unable to be cared for at home.

Please can we ask our parents to think very carefully before taking up these places.

We are following local Public Health advice and restricting the number of children in school in order to minimise the risk of spread of coronavirus. The more children and staff we have in school, the greater the risk of transmission of coronavirus.

We are currently operating with smaller Bubbles than usual class sizes to enable our protective measures to be robust through this period of lockdown. This does mean that we may not be

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able to offer a place to every parent who requests a place for their child. If you do require a place for your child as a critical worker, or as a vulnerable child, please contact the school office who will be able to advise if places are available. If not we will place your child's name on a waiting list, or may be able to offer them part time provision. I would like to reiterate that the overriding national advice is for everybody to **stay at home**, unless they need to leave their home for essential reasons. The more children and staff we have in school, the higher the possibility of the school being impacted by coronavirus which could result in Bubbles being closed for the 10 day self-isolation period.

Remote learning

As schools had not been informed about the closure announcement on Monday night, our teachers had already been in school on our INSET day planning for a 'normal' week in school. At short notice, our teachers adapted their pre-planned lessons for this week and provided three days' worth of resources on Wednesday morning for children in each year group. I would like to thank our teaching staff for their work in adapting these resources at short notice and also our parents for the job they are doing in supporting their children's learning at home and submitting work to us.

From Monday 11th January, remote learning will be provided on a daily basis. In reception, all remote learning will be provided using Tapestry and in years 1 to 6 remote learning will be sent from the year group email accounts. Daily remote learning for years 1 to 6 will be set by 9.00am each day, and will provide 3 hours of learning for KS1 and 4 hours of learning for KS2.

We will also be sending home pre-recorded lessons to accompany learning resources next week, which will be accessible from our school YouTube channels. There will be at least one pre-recorded lesson or activity per day in KS1 and two pre-recorded lessons or activities per day in KS2. Resources may also be provided to accompany these lessons, however most teachers are planning lessons which can be completed on paper, without the need to print out worksheets. If you require any additional resources, e.g. exercise books, pencils, scissors etc. please contact your child's teacher via the new year group email addresses and this can be provided for you. Thank you to the parents who have already requested such resources; these will be provided from Monday.

As the term progresses, the online content being provided will increase. Our proposed arrangements for this delivery are shown below. We will be in touch next week with further information about how parents can sign up for the 'live' elements outlined.

Week 1 - week beginning 11/01/21

- At least one pre-recorded lesson per day in KS1 and two pre-recorded lessons in KS2
- A live assembly led by a member(s) of the senior leadership team

Week 2 - week beginning 18/01/21

- At least one pre-recorded lesson per day in KS1 and two pre-recorded lessons in KS2
- A live assembly led by a member(s) of the senior leadership team
- At least two live sessions during the week (e.g. Cosy Club, storytime, circle time)

Week 3 - week beginning 25/01/21

- A mixture of pre-recorded and live lessons every day
- A live assembly led by a member(s) of the senior leadership team
- At least two live sessions during the week (e.g. Cosy Club, storytime, circle time)
- At least two live lessons (Phonics, English, Maths or Topic) during the week

Weeks 4 and 5 - weeks beginning 01/02/21 and 08/02/21

- A mixture of pre-recorded and live lessons every day
- A live assembly led by a member(s) of the senior leadership team
- A live key stage assembly led by a teacher within each Key Stage
- At least two live sessions during the week (e.g. Cosy Club, storytime, circle time)
- At least two live lessons (Phonics, English, Maths or Topic) during the week

Please submit any work completed, photographs, videos etc. to your child's year group email inbox e.g. hcpyr5@hamptoncollege.org.uk for year 5. Any queries regarding remote learning should also be addressed to these email accounts in the first instance.

The world of pre-recorded and live lessons is a new venture for many of us and we hope that these sessions will enrich your child's remote learning experience. Once again, I would like to thank our teaching team for the time and effort they are putting into providing these resources, and to thank our parents and children in advance for their engagement with these resources.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

We know that the impact of lockdown effects everybody differently, but this is the time for us to all look out for one another and support those around us. We all appreciate a kind word, a smile, a cheery greeting; these can all help to brighten our day and we all know that we need to be doing this now more than ever.

Our teachers and teaching assistants will be resuming their fortnightly welfare calls from Monday 11th January. These may appear to come from withheld or private telephone numbers; we will leave a message if we can't get through. If you need any further support, please let the staff member calling know and we will do our best to provide any additional support we can. Mrs McAlister will also be able to provide support to our families. Further support, advice and wellbeing resources for our children and our families will be sent home on Monday 11th January. For me, the most important messages are "Keeping Talking" and #BeKind.

We will get through these challenging times. Our school community at Hampton College Primary is made up of wonderful people and now, more than ever, is the time to come together and support each other. We all want life to return to normal as soon as possible; let's achieve that with optimism and positivity!

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us at school. Queries about remote learning should be directed to the year group email accounts in the first instance; any other queries should be directed to the school office via telephone 01733 246821 or email primary@hamptoncollege.org.uk. At this time, please can we ask that visits to the school office in person are for essential purposes only.

Above all, stay safe and keep smiling!

Yours sincerely,



Mr P Jones
Head of School (Primary)