

Education Resources Executive Director Tony McDaid High Mill Primary School Head Teacher: Kirstine McDonald

5th May 2020

Dear Parent

Supporting Learning and Wellbeing at Home and Online

We know that children and parents are anxious. The staff team want to remind parents that we are here to support you. We can be contacted by email (all teachers email addresses were sent home) or through Google Classroom (your child can post messages to their teacher)

Google Classroom is a fantastic tool, not only is this where children can access the home learning materials, but it gives your child the chance to 'chat' to their teacher and classmates. This interaction is important for mental and emotional wellbeing as it gives a connection that is missing due to lock down and school closure.

Teachers continue to plan and prepare learning activities for children to complete at home. Google Classroom can be accessed on a range of devices including iPads, tablets, laptops and some gaming systems. Instructions of how to access Google Classroom on devices was previously issued. We will share these again on Twitter, the website and on the App. Children already had a note of their passwords for Glow and Sum Dog.

All children have a log in for Sum Dog which they can continue to use. Where possible, we ask that children using IDL continue to use this every day (you will know if your child uses this).

We are aware that not all families have access to technologies and are working on ways to further support the learning including how to issue more packs. We have heard of examples where our pupils are working on personal projects. This helps develop research skills and subject knowledge.

Please do what you can based on your home circumstances. Wider learning such as cooking, baking, making beds and some DIY are fantastic life skills to develop. Taking part in arts activities is good for wellbeing - let's get singing, practising an instrument, drawing and painting!

Regardless of what learning 'looks like' in your home, I ask that you help your child share this with their teacher. This can be by uploading tasks into Google Classroom, sharing a photo or sending an email with a short update. Staff are eager to know your child is OK and this sharing will help them to help your child.

Our School App, Twitter and website continue to be our methods of communication. Mrs Naismith and I will continue to make phone calls home.

Keep safe and we hope to see you soon.

Yours sincerely

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