

High Street
Houghton Conquest
Bedfordshire MK45 3LL

Telephone: 01234 740202
Email: hconquest@hcschool.org.uk
Website: www.hcschool.org.uk



**Houghton Conquest
Lower School**

Growing together

Headteacher
Miss C A McCarthy

1st May 2020

Dear parents/carers

Keeping in touch

Firstly, I wanted to check in and send my hope that you and your family are all well and safe during this time, adjusting to the new normal day-to-day life. We have had some beautiful weather over the past couple of weeks, so I hope you have been utilising the opportunity to get in the garden or go for a walk each day as a family. It has been lovely to see so many of our children out walking with their families in the village, enjoying the sunshine!

Secondly, I wanted to thank you for your continued support of the school during this time and for collecting home learning packs last week or contacting us about them. We hope these packs have created structure for your child and we welcome all feedback, so that we can continue improving our home learning packs. Please email any feedback to office@hcschool.org.uk.

We appreciate that as time progresses these circumstances can become more difficult. I know how overwhelmed many families are feeling with the pressures of home schooling. Please do not feel anxious or pressured, you can only do what you can, and the health and mental well-being of your whole family should be your number one priority during this time. The home learning packs are an optional resource for you to use; providing your children with valuable life skills and opportunities are just as important, alongside a calm home environment.

The government have produced some guidance documents that you may find useful. Please find the links below:

- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-primary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19> - This document gives parents some general guidance about home schooling.
- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-children-with-send-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>- This guidance is specifically for parents of children with special needs and/or disabilities, but it has some useful links to resources that are helpful for all children.



- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-online-education-resources-for-home-education> - This link provides parents and schools with a wide range of online education resources for home education.
- The government has also established a new online national academy to provide online lessons and resources – <https://www.thenational.academy/information-for-parents-pupils/>

Government Update

The government are still reviewing when to lift the lockdown and have set out to have a comprehensive plan next week on how to restart the economy. There has also been a lot of speculation in the media about school's reopening; at present, we have no indication as to when that will be, but please be assured that we will communicate this with you as soon as we have any information.

Professionals and headteachers in Central Bedfordshire (and nationally) have been discussing ways of promoting a safe return to school when the time is right; we have to learn to adjust to the current guidelines with the safety of staff and children being paramount. These are ongoing discussions to help schools prepare, and again, once there is greater clarity on this and a return date to school proposed by the government, we will update you accordingly. We appreciate your patience with the matter.

School Closure

The school will continue to operate normal hours and remain open for vulnerable children and the children of key workers until further notice. Please be aware of the bank holiday on Friday 8th May – the school will be closed on this day. A reminder, that if you need to contact us during this time, you can do so on office@hcschool.org.uk. We are always happy to hear from you and will be available to respond.



Captain Tom Moore's Birthday Cards

Thank you to everyone who spent time creating a birthday card for Captain Tom Moore. As a school, we also spent some time creating birthday cards and have collated them all together and sent them off for his 100th birthday! As you can see, the children have created some lovely birthday cards, joining the many thousands of cards that Captain Tom Moore has received!



Home Learning Fun

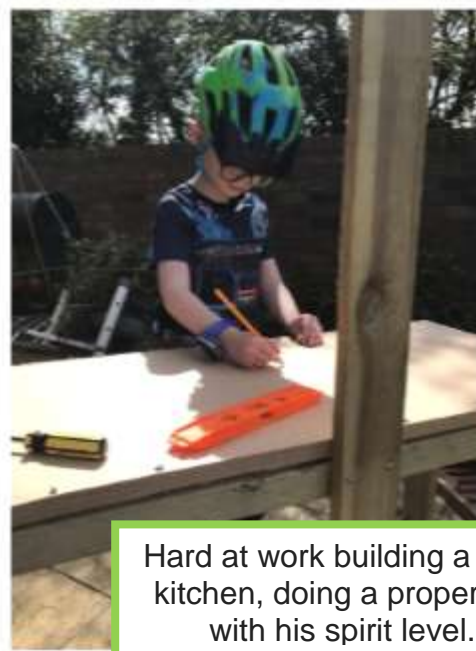
All the teachers have been incredibly grateful to receive lots of emails and photos of children learning from home. It has been amazing to see all the creative ideas that each and every one of you has been doing with your children. We would like to say a big thank you for continuing your child's learning from home. Please continue to send your class teacher photos and updates, as I will share some of these each week!



Creating a beautiful fact file about Triceratops dinosaurs!



Lots of fun making a mud kitchen in the garden!



Hard at work building a mud kitchen, doing a proper job with his spirit level.



Lots of baking at home; baking lots of tasty treats.



Creating a wonderful information poster all about owls.

Safeguarding and Communication

Safeguarding is and will always remain a priority for us. If you have anything you wish to discuss, please contact the school on **01234 740202** or email **office@hcschool.org.uk** and I will get in touch with you as soon as possible. To make an immediate referral use the access and referral hub: **0300 300 8585**.

Please remember that we are still always here to help during this time; you can contact us on the phone number or email address above, or you can make direct contact with your child's class teacher via email.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Stay safe, take care and keep in touch!

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J Heaslip". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Miss J Heaslip
Acting Headteacher