

15th January 2021

Dear Parents/carers

I would like to congratulate you all on the amazing efforts you are making to support the learning of your children. During the past week, many of you have been engaging pro-actively with your child's remote learning, as detailed in our remote learning plan. You have been finding out how to download activities, share learning with your children and upload work your child has completed. I just wanted to take this opportunity to say a big well done to you and thank you for your ongoing support with your child's learning at home. Please remember, however, that if you do need support or help with any of this please do get in touch – we are here to help.

Unfortunately, we have had to close our Pre-school/Robins and Hawks/Eagles bubble for those children who are a key worker and vulnerable children, due to a staff member and a pupil testing positive for Coronavirus. I am sure you will join me in sending them our best wishes. All children deemed as a close contact will have received a letter. This bubble will reopen on Monday 25th January. Please do remember that we are here to help.

Our school remains open to the children of Doves and Owls for critical workers who are unable to keep their children at home and vulnerable children. The government message and our message remains the same however – in order to contribute to the success of this lockdown in reducing the spread of Coronavirus, where children can stay at home, they should. As such, please only use this facility where absolutely necessary and only when as a critical worker, you are at work.

Remote learning

Our remote education is being delivered in the way that it is to offer you flexibility; our pre-recorded sessions allow you to access learning at a time to suit your family. Take advantage of this flexibility, and please don't overwhelm yourself with unrealistic expectations. I have been observing teacher's approaches and strategies to remote education and we are evaluating these within our staff meetings on a weekly basis. I will, of course, update you should we make any changes.

Nevertheless, I must promote engagement with this learning and encourage you to submit learning to your child's teacher in order to ensure their continued progress. We do completely appreciate it may be difficult to submit their work on a daily basis.

Therefore, your child's class teacher will, when posting your child's lessons, include a question box; we do encourage your child to answer these questions as this tells us that your child is engaging with remote learning; teachers are then able to provide support and help in a more timely manner.

Wednesday 13th January - Literacy Posted 8:15 AM

Today we are going to listen to the story of Cinderella and answer questions about the text.

Listen to the lesson:
<https://www.loom.com/share/40a1a2c6934d4e0eb883805fdc325d2a>

For your activity you will need to pause the video at the end to answer the questions on the board. All you need to do is write down your answers for me and send them in.

I am confident with this lesson.	3
I need more help.	0

Support Available

- I would like to make you aware that we have been informed that customers using BT Mobile, EE, and Plusnet Mobile can use BBC Bitesize content from the end of January without eating into their data allowance.
- Bitesize provides structured lessons in maths and English for all year groups, as well as offering other curriculum material. You may want to use this to **supplement** the online learning we are providing or as an alternative if our work is not available for some reason.
- Content from other providers is likely to be made free in the coming days and more mobile companies are expected to follow suit in making such content free to use. We will let you know of any we become aware of.
- All contract and pay-as-you-go customers of BT Mobile, EE and Plusnet Mobile will be eligible and the free package will continue while schools remain closed. No registration is required - the free access will happen automatically.

Access to Technology

The Department for Education have only been able to support us in providing three laptops for our school. However, the Friends of Houghton Conquest have very kindly funded ten Chromebooks to support our current IT equipment in school; a big thank you to the Friends for your continued support. I want each of our children to be equally able to access the learning being put onto the google classroom platform. Therefore, if you are having difficulties accessing a device or the internet, please do not hesitate to contact your class teacher.

Reading

Reading is at the heart of our children's learning, and unlocks so much progress. Therefore, we want to support your child to read at home.

The Oxford Owl reading website is providing free eBooks to those who register. Once registered, if you select your child's age, the select book bands under the 'All levels' tab, you will find a selection of books for your child to read at home. <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/>

We are also looking at a variety of other ways to help support your child with reading at home, and we will update you accordingly.

Marking success

To mark children's successes and achievements whilst they are learning at home we will be publishing pictures and stories of our children's achievements at home on our school website every Monday (news page), so do keep in touch with your child's class teacher. Please do take a look at the newsfeed on a regular basis.

Safeguarding

At Houghton Conquest Lower School we believe that a caring school promotes the welfare, health, safety and guidance of every child and adult in our school family. This commitment is unchanged in the case of our closure. If you have any concerns about any family or child's well-being, you can make us aware of your concern via office@hcschool.org.uk or head@hcschool.org.uk.

We thank you all for your support and continued cooperation, kind words and continued belief that we always ensure that the safety and best interests of our pupils, staff and families remain our priority.

Best wishes, keep safe!

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Heaslip'.

Miss Heaslip
Headteacher