



Hadleigh Infants and Nursery School Academy

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Wednesday 27th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

COVID-19 Update -

This afternoon, the Prime Minister, announced that schools will remain closed until at least Monday 8th March 2021. I am sure many of you will be pleased to potentially have an ending in sight but also frustrated by the current situation. I would like to reassure all of you that I have already made plans for managing multiple ways of bringing the children back ranging from the whole school returning to a phased return like we saw in June 2020. These plans are ready to be implemented at short notice which should result in the children being able to return as soon as it is deemed safe to do so. I would like to repeat my praise for the work that you are all doing with your children at the moment. The uptake and level of work being completed by the children during this lockdown is massively up from the first closure in March last year - this would not be the case without your support. I can only imagine that this has not always been easy! If anything, this pandemic has united the majority of the country behind the idea that home learning should be put in a box and never brought out again.

I would like to let you know one of the most important pieces of advice I gave to all of my staff when I started at the school in April 2017. The implementation of this advice has changed the school's approach to learning over the past few years and I feel it could benefit everyone at times when home educating. The main thing we must learn is when to stop - as teachers this is a difficult thing to do. We know that children have to get through a huge amount of content every year and that there is no time to waste; however, for too long we used to continue to plough on even though most of the children were either confused or had switched off. We now approach learning in a different way - making sure that every child is in the right frame of mind to learn. If they are not - regardless of the quality of teaching and effort you are putting in - little progress, if any, will be made. We have learnt to stop - put the learning to one side and reengage the children before even attempting to carry on. I want you to know this is fine to do at home too. If your child is struggling or disengaged - stop. Come back to the activities again later in the day or start afresh the day after. From experience, stopping and coming back another time will have a greater impact compared to just carrying on. It is important to remember a child engaged for one hour a day will make more progress compared to a child disengaged for three hours. Mental wellbeing is finally starting to take centre stage when we talk about the children in this pandemic. Using this type of approach to the learning will support the positive mental wellbeing of your child as well as your own on certain days. I am sure that most of the time home learning is manageable but please remember this advice whenever you are faced with a tough day.

Magic Gareth -

At Hadleigh we pride ourselves on providing children with a memorable and meaningful curriculum. My staff have always worked hard to consider how we can provide children with experiences and opportunities to develop their love for learning, extend their skills, ignite interests and sometimes just allow children to be children and have fun. The current pandemic has not stopped the staff's determination to ensure we fulfil our vision for the children. During the past term, we have completed activities such as World Smile Day, Odd Socks Day as well as our month of Christmas events in December. Being driven by our vision and ethos, the staff have suggested a fun and exciting experience for all which will take place next week. I have agreed to their idea of providing a magic show for each year group. Each child is invited to their year group's virtual magic show. This experience will take place on Thursday 4th February - a letter outlining the details of the session will be sent to you by Friday. The children, who are at school or working from home, will be able to attend, watch and join in with the show which will be run by Magic Gareth. It is our hope that this session will provide everyone with an enjoyable experience and an opportunity to do something different - I am sure we could all do with a small sprinkle of magic right now! There will be no charge for this session.

Parents' Evening -

I would like to announce that the Parents' Evening event, which was due to take place on Tuesday 9th and Thursday 11th February, will be postponed and moved to a new date at the beginning of the Summer Term. It is our hope that we would have had some face-to-face time with the children again before these meetings. In the meantime, if you would like to discuss anything with your child's teacher, please contact them using the SeeSaw App or one of the emails found below.

Finally, I just wanted to thank you all again for the support you continue to show the school during this pandemic and remind everyone that my staff and I are here to best support you in any way we can.

Yours sincerely

Mr. S. Proctor

Education support:

Nursery - YearNsupport@hadleigh-inf.essex.sch.uk

Reception - YearRsupport@hadleigh-inf.essex.sch.uk

Year 1 - Year1support@hadleigh-inf.essex.sch.uk

Year 2 - Year2support@hadleigh-inf.essex.sch.uk

Wellbeing support:

Phone - 07368938194

Email - Wellbeingsupport@hadleigh-inf.essex.sch.uk