



HOWBRIDGE CHURCH OF ENGLAND JUNIOR SCHOOL

Head's Half Termly Headlines!

Keeping Learning Going

Well done to everyone who is part of the Howbridge school community for your hard work and determination to keep the education of our children going this half term. We are extremely grateful to all of our parents for doing their best to support learning via Google Classroom as well as continuing to work from home and juggle everything else that goes with running a household. Many of our staff are also parents of young children and can fully appreciate the stresses and strains!

No system of remote learning is going to replace the rich learning that a classroom provides but the more people that engage with the system we have in place, the more effective it will be.

It may interest you to note the following:

- We have had external evaluations of our remote learning offer by County and a member of the Vine Trust senior leadership team (who is also an Ofsted Inspector) and they are very happy with the balance and range of activities set, the timetable and the amount of direct support being provided to our families.
- We have been able to provide 40 laptops to families and are hoping to be able to secure more devices from the DfE in due course. Mr Eaves has also been able to provide expert technical support to families (and staff) which has meant we have been able to sort out issues very quickly.
- The learning that is set on Google Classroom, mirrors as much as we are able, the learning that is provided for children on site. It is also following our curriculum as closely as we can, meaning the teachers will be able to quickly ascertain any gaps in learning and address these once everyone returns to school. Therefore, it is really important that your child completes as much work set on google Classroom as they can. If you are doing other activities with your child, this is great, but please try to do other things as 'extra' learning rather than supplementing your own curriculum.
- The live 'registration' sessions each morning has been extremely well received by the children. Please do encourage your child to log on ready for 9am each weekday to catch up with their peers and get information from their teacher as to the day's tasks.
- We have had lots of positive feedback about what we are doing to keep learning going – thank you. Please send any feedback at all to the school office office.howbridge@dcvst.org and we will discuss it at our planning meetings.

Please note, it doesn't matter what job you do, if you can keep your children at home, you must do so. Hopefully, there will be news of a return to school for all on 8th March.



Church School Section...

Messy Church Family Event

On Feb 2nd, we held our second virtual Messy Church event around the theme of Fresh Hope.

We are planning more such events – please do get the whole family involved.

Watch this space for dates!



Responsibility

This half term we have been exploring responsibility and have linked this value to life at home and school –

*“In all the work you are given, do the best you can. Work as though you are working for the Lord, not any Earthly master.”
Colossians 3:23*

Other Key Information

Free School Meals Vouchers

Vouchers will be available over the half term break and for the two weeks following. Please watch for notifications in the usual way.

Laptops and access to Google Classroom

We have used our allocation of laptops provided by the DfE. Please note that if your child has a laptop and is not logging on, we may need to ask that you return it so another family can make use of it. We are trying to secure further devices so let school know via email if you need a laptop or iPad and we will put your child's name on a waiting list.

Safeguarding or Wellbeing Concerns

We are still working closely with many of our families and maintaining contact via Google Classroom, email and telephone as well as virtual sessions/meetings where needed. If you need wellbeing support or are concerned about a child's wellbeing or safety, please do not hesitate to contact school via email or telephone, where we can direct your concern to the correct person.

Digital Wellbeing Support

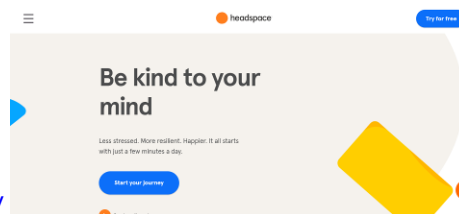
I attended a series of webinars recently about remote learning and effective provision. There were a variety of experts sharing their research and other schools talking about their provision and experience.

There were also experts in mental health and wellbeing for children and young people talking about digital support, in the form of various APPs that can be used. I thought I would share some of these with you in the hope that you find a solution, or at least some help with any related issues you or your children, might be experiencing.



<https://dreamykid.com/>

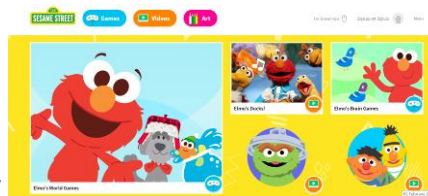
This APP and website focuses on meditation and breathing and has 'sleep stories'.



<https://www.headspace.com/>

There are some free resources on here as well as a subscription option. This website is aimed at adults. There is a version aimed at children, again with meditation activities.

<https://www.headspace.com/meditation/kids>



<https://www.sesamestreet.org/>

Lots of fun and educational activities and resources on this website. Aimed at younger children e.g. Early Years.



<https://mindfulpowersforkids.com/>

This APP is aimed at primary pupils. It builds social-emotional learning through play. This was highly recommended.



<http://chillpanda.co.uk/>

Breathing techniques, measure heart rate & suggests activities based on pupil state of mind. This APP is being tested in the NHS.



<https://sleeptown.seekrtech.com/>

A free game that may help to develop healthy sleeping habits.

Please note that I haven't used any of these resources, other than Headspace before, so do look into them before deciding whether to try them out with children.

Families of Children Who Are Currently in School – PLEASE NOTE

If your child develops symptoms of COVID19 within 48 hours of being in school

You must seek a test for your child and the household must isolate at home until the test result is returned. You should let your school know that this has occurred.

The quickest way to obtain a test is to book a test at your local testing centre via <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. Please do not use postal tests unless absolutely necessary as these take longer.

If the test result is positive for COVID19, you must inform your school, who will identify if there are any other individuals within the school community who are impacted by this.

If the test result is negative, you should inform the school and you do not need to take any further action.

You should contact the school on covidcontact@howbridgejunior.co.uk **between the hours of 9.00am and 4.00pm.**

You must provide the following: name, date of symptoms starting.

If your child develops symptoms of COVID19 more than 48 hours after their last day in school

You must seek a test for your child and the household must isolate at home until the test result is returned.

If the test result is positive for COVID-19, having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, (Monday 15th February onwards) you must contact NHS Test and Trace and follow the advice given by them:

www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/

You should contact the school if your child will be absent, in time for the first day of the new term. Please leave a message on the school absence line.

Snow Fun!

It looks like many of you have managed to pause Google Classroom for a while and have some fun in the snow! The pictures on the class streams of snowmen, snowballs and even a snow collage are fab!

Here are some photos of people at school enjoying themselves:





Have a lovely half term break everyone!

Note that there won't be any work set by teachers from Mon 15th – Fri 19th Feb, school will also be closed to KW and Vulnerable children. We hope to update you as to when everyone will be back in school after half term. Stay safe.

Mrs L Dale

Website: <https://www.howbridgejunior.co.uk/> Tel: 01376 501648 Email: office@howbridge-jun.essex.sch.uk