

Henlow Beats

HENLOW ACADEMY UPDATE

Dear parents and carers,

Can I begin by thanking you all for your support during recent weeks. Now that school is only accessed by small numbers of pupils and a vastly reduced staffing structure everything has changed for the majority of our community. On site we are offering the child care that the government requested and places will be available for the same pupils over Easter.

Education at home has been enabled by the Google world that we have been using for some time. Nevertheless, I know that many of us have been reminding ourselves of the processes and it has taken a while to get up and running. We do understand that technology will have glitches and that it isn't always possible to have access to it. There are materials available on paper and many pupils took these home last week. If you need a folder of this, please email info@henlowacademy.org.uk.

Many teachers are making themselves available by email and some use of Google Hangout has emerged in the last few days. Please bear with us as we all learn to use new possibilities and we are, of course, making sure that we all contribute safely. Given that usual forms of contact aren't possible at the moment, we know that finding ways of communicating with others via phones and laptops can be important for our well-being. Whilst we are carrying out Google Hangouts or making phone calls to pupils we will adopt the following protocols.

1. We will try to have hangouts in groups, not 1:1. Very few people should need to do 1:1 Hangouts/phone calls, predominantly Mr Carrington or Mrs Newman from a safeguarding perspective. If this is necessary, the parent/carer will be notified by email/phone prior to speaking/video calling the child. If we do not receive a response from parents/carers we will take appropriate steps to ensure children are safeguarded.
2. Pupils have group hangouts in a communal space in their home where possible, parents/carers should be aware that this is happening so that they can monitor appropriately.
3. Pupils will be reminded at the beginning of the session that they are on screen and can be seen and heard unless they leave or mute themselves or turn off the webcam.
4. In all instances, we will keep a record of the communication with your child.

Next week we will be publishing Henlow Heart with news and photos drawing together highlights from this term. As we enter what is undoubtedly going to be a difficult few weeks, please remember that we are still available and can be contacted via email info@henlowacademy.org.uk.

Throughout the Easter period (3rd April until Tuesday 21st April) there is no expectation of school work being completed. I'm sure some of the projects pupils are involved in will continue, especially the 10 day challenges we are setting ourselves. Mr Lee's project, drawing on his military service, is designing a visor that may be helpful at Bedford hospital - I'm sure all of us wish him success with this endeavour.

Yours

Caren Earp



EDUCATION UPDATE

What an unusual week we have all had!

Those of us who have been in school have had the time, space and flexibility to enjoy lots of arts, crafts and exercise, interspersed between some academic study on our Google classrooms. I know that those of you working from home have been challenging yourselves to work on the classrooms as well as learning new skills in your homes and gardens.

I have received some emails from children and parents concerned about communication. Please encourage your child to login to their Google classrooms and emails daily to check up on new communication. It is crucial they login using their school details, not their personal account (if they have one) otherwise the materials and classroom facility won't be available for them. If you have a specific question about RE, please contact Miss Smithen in the first instance (gsmithen@henlowacademy.org.uk).

Facebook has provided much entertainment this week. We have had a daily science lesson led by Mrs Chambers and in some cases her two daughters, we have seen many of you exercising along with Joe Wicks, we have listened to Mrs Rimmer's daughter reading some of the books the children have written and we have been overwhelmed with the creations you have been making at home. Seeing all the delicious baking going on, I cannot wait for our next 'Bake-off' competition. I have even seen a post from Harley, demonstrating how static energy can bend water - a budding teacher in training! If you do not currently subscribe to our Facebook page I would highly recommend it. It is being updated very regularly with great learning ideas.

EDUCATION UPDATE

Google hangouts are a great way for children and teachers to keep connected while in isolation. We, as teachers, are very new to this technology so are trying our best to get up to speed. Your child is likely to be invited to a Google Hangout. They will get notification in their emails. Please ask them to bring their device or computer into a social area in your house and avoid using it in their bedroom. This is to safeguard all of us. Please monitor your child's communication on Google Hangout as we cannot while we are not at school.

If you have missed previous communication about how to find school work please go to our website: http://www.henlowacademy.co.uk/web/home_working/458449?fbclid=IwAR2Ezk7CPfA2O1n6YyhsFmCsdntglhJKjFOIkVJUXQHA00DoLKpLhnE_aAo Here you will find a short letter and a PDF. Please use this as a guide to direct your children to where they can find some work.

Lastly, it is important to remind you that we are not setting any expectations of how much or how little any child completes of the work that is set. I stand by this statement I sent in the original communication:

As a society, we have very little time for family time, we spend our lives rushing to and from work, taxi-ing children to and from clubs, eating in the car on route, let's accept this new challenge with open arms. Let's embrace time with our immediate family and learn to talk to one another and play games in a courteous manner. Do not place unnecessary pressure on your family to be an academic genius, instead trust that your children will catch up and value the skills that can be learned and nurtured by spending time together.

While the sun shines, get off the screen and enjoy your garden.

Stay safe,

Naomi Chalkley

Deputy Headteacher



HENLOW PUPIL'S WORK

