

ARNETT HILLS JMI SCHOOL



Friday April 24th 2020

Dear all

I hope this newsletter finds you all well and managing the current situation as best as you can—I know how much it differs household to household.

Thank you for all of the kind messages that you have sent about the teachers' efforts to do live lessons. I hope that you have been able to access them each day without too many hitches.

I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank the teaching staff at Arnett Hills for their commitment to the children. With little notice, they have really 'stepped up to the plate' as it were. Mrs O'Neill has worked tirelessly (and continues to do so) as the person who set up the system with Sunil and Kai, our I.T. technicians. She deals patiently with daily technical problems, liaising with and supporting anyone who needs her.

The class teachers have quickly adapted to a whole new way of working (which is so alien to them) without a single word of complaint from any of them. In normal times, I see the impact the teachers have on children's learning everyday in their classrooms: the strength of the relationships and contact they have with the children underpins everything they do. They understand and cater for the diverse learning needs in their classes, ably assisted by the Learning Support Assistants. However, they cannot possibly replicate that in these sessions but they are giving it their all—so please be patient and forgive any shortcomings you may feel the system throws up. Remember just how nerve wracking this is for them as they are not just in front of the children but also often 30 adults!

We are simply trying to make that 'reconnection' as a school community which is so important to us. Please use the lessons to guide you with your child's learning. You can always extend your child after the sessions or only do part of a session if that pace suits your child better, dwelling on one learning point. You know your child and will be able to gauge what he/she can manage happily without causing any anxiety.

In order to help with the ongoing management of the system, please use Teams to access or upload work etc if instructed to do so. Also remember to check your class folder on the school website for other work. You may have followed up my suggestion last week about looking at the BBC Bitesize Primary website. It has a weekly timetable of lessons for each year group including animations and songs. It really is worth a look.

It has been lovely to see and hear about all of the other learning you have been doing with your children—from baking cakes, creating works of art and making models, to releasing rescued hedgehogs! Keep it up, you are all doing a great job.

Do send photos to deputy@arnetthills.herts.sch.uk of children doing other work related activities - look for this in the OUT OF SCHOOL WORK area. Double click on the tab.

Please send any comments regarding the Teams teaching experience directly to head@arnetthills.herts.sch.uk

THANK YOU

TEAMS—tips to help us all

Do please upload work in folders, if you are able, as directed by teachers as they love being able to see it

Do please continue to join lessons through the calendar part of TEAMS, **only once the teacher has started the meeting and only at the designated time**

Please do not use the TEAMS lesson chats for talking to your friends, sending Gifs and emojis and staying on after lessons

Please do not record the lessons and add to the stream. Use the PowerPoints uploaded by the teacher to refer back to.

THANK YOU