



Ashton Hayes Primary School

ASPIRE TO BE AMAZING! APRIL 2020

News

This is, by an absolute country mile, the strangest newsletter I have ever written, and, probably will ever write! To have thought a few weeks back that schools would be shut, apart from for the children of key workers, would have been unthinkable. But here we are, two weeks into an enforced lockdown, where life as we know it has changed to a fraction of what it was before.

Much of this next section, I have said on the Headteacher Blog. But, it is important that I say it again, so please bear with me. The challenges faced have been difficult ones and I am sure we are all feeling rather vulnerable and unsure of what the future weeks hold. The role of school within the wider community in reassuring each other has never been as important in my time as Headteacher. Caring for the children, each other, ourselves, our close relatives, friends and neighbours has seen a huge turn of direction from life before the Coronavirus. We have seen some amazing acts of kindness and communities coming together for the good of everyone.

We have seen our role as a school changed to a provider of work to be completed at home. From educators to childcare for those parents who are critical to the fight against this virus, that has ripped through our lives. From a parent trying to run a job and a household, to a teacher of children. These roles will adapt over the coming weeks and we will settle into them, learning what works well and what we need to change.

If I can stress the importance of one thing, it's this: at the end of all of this, your children's mental health and well-being will be more important than their academic skills. How they felt during this time will stay with them long after the memory of what they did during these next weeks is long gone. So keep that in mind, every single day.

We will not set 'learning' activities during the Easter holidays, however there are recommended links and activities on the Home Learning page of the website, that could be completed, should you wish. I know many of you use Facebook and respond to the posts on our Facebook page but, over on Twitter, a number of people have been showing the work their children have been up to by tagging @AshtonHayesPS in to a tweet. It's lovely to see what the children are up to in this enforced time away from school.



Easter Information

There will be no formal learning set by teachers over the next few weeks, due to the official Easter Holiday, which was supposed to start today. Many of you will welcome the chance to take a break from the structure of home-learning. But many of you may feel that during this period of time based at home, some semblance of structure could be needed. With this in mind, please check the Home Learning Tab on the school website:

<http://ashtonhayes.cheshire.sch.uk/page/home-learning/64729>

The website page is broken down into subject sections, and we are updating the resources and suggestions as we find them. On there are links to free resources and also signposts to places who are offering some free access to specific resources or platforms.

Colleagues from across Cheshire West and Chester have networked to signpost to resources. David Wearing and his team have created some very useful links on Padlet – these links are again on the Home Learning Page.

There are lots of useful things on the platforms that the school has licences for. Purple Mash has countless things to do, ranging from, PE, to Computing to French and Science. My Maths has games and revision courses that do not require a teacher to set them.

But above all, please remember that there is no expectation to complete work during the Easter break. Be safe. Teachers will set more work for the children on Monday 20th April.



Worth a look...

The Institute of Engineering and Technology – Key Stage 1 and 2 – free Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics resources.

Team Talk – football resources from the FA to do at home

Carole Kenrick – science links for activities in the home, including outdoor play.

Digimaps – digital maps where you can annotate and play around with maps – free access until the end of July.

Username: CH3 8AB

Password: claws5945

Virtual Field Trips – Freedom Home Schooling – virtual trips to well-known places and buildings

