



Dear Parent/ Carer

We want to say a massive thank you to you all for your continued support of school life. The support you are providing for your children is hugely appreciated and we know that this is not an easy task when juggling busy home and work lives. It is important to remember our message from before the Easter break: there is no pressure - do what works for you and your family. As Mr Atkins mentioned, health and well-being are the absolute priority at this strange time. We are so thankful for the sunny weather which continues to brighten up our days and we hope that you have been able to enjoy it whilst staying safe at home. We also continue to be thankful for the supportive messages we have received which have been shared with the whole staff team – they really do make everyone smile.

We wanted to get in touch at this early stage of the term to update you on a few things. As always, should you have any questions, our website is regularly updated with [dedicated information pages](#), our social media pages contain useful information and we can be contacted on phone or email. We might be working at a distance but we are here to help and we want to support you all.

Home Learning

It has been great to see such positive engagement with home learning. Many pupils are now accessing the Google Classroom resources, which is the best way to keep up-to-date with the classes as we can provide regular work and keep in contact with the pupils. We also have many other online resources which are being widely used including Maths Whizz and Frog Play (amongst many others). We thank the many organisations who have provided access to their products during this time. For those with limited access, we have worked to ensure that tailored learning packs have been provided and we will continue to do this in school. A special thanks to Mrs Toor for her hard work in producing packs for our pupils. All of the useful information relating to home learning can be found on our [website](#).

It would be great if you could now establish your working routines again following the Easter break. I think most of us enjoy some form of routine, although this does not need to be as rigid as a typical school day. We are online and at the end of the phone ready to answer any queries you may have. We can see the many interactions happening daily between our teachers and pupils – the positive approach the pupils have adopted has been fantastic to see so let's keep that up going forward.

We are very sensitive to the fact that these are unsettling times for all of us and that every family will be experiencing different challenges throughout this period. The message remains that we are not pressurising or demanding certain amounts of work or schedules. We do now though have a duty to ensure that we are providing an education for all of our pupils and it so important that every child is accessing some of our learning at home. With that in mind, we have asked the teachers to let us know

who seems to be struggling to access online work so we can understand who needs more support. We will collate this information and cross-check it with our communication logs and those we know have already had work delivered, and will then be in touch to see if we can support you and your child further so that they can access their work. We want all pupils to stay safe and healthy and part of this is to keep an active brain through learning. It may be that they are doing work in other forms, and this is what we will find out during our conversations.

Supporting Young People

Our pastoral leaders sent home a supportive leaflet over Easter – please try to share this with your child at home. The website has also been updated with lots of information relating to supporting our young people through this challenging period. This includes guidance from mental health organisations such as Young Minds and information from the Psychological and Educational Teams at Northumberland County Council. The website also contains guidance for keeping safe online as many of us will be increasing our time spent on devices as we communicate in new ways during this closure period. You will also find [information relating to safeguarding](#) and how to contact key services. We know that this is a challenging time for everyone and people react in different ways. School staff have been keeping in touch with some families throughout this initial period and we are now increasing that contact. However please get in touch with school if you feel that your child would specifically benefit from a chat with a member of staff. We will then organise to give you a call back at a convenient time.

We have also uploaded a ‘2020 COVID-19 Time Capsule’ to our website. This is a great way for your child and other family members to take some reflection time and to keep a record of life at home.

Form Tutor Google Classrooms

The form tutor team have now set up their classes with a Google Classroom base. This is a great way for the form tutors to keep in touch with their classes. They won’t be setting any additional work here, but they will set activities which promote fun, well-being and supporting mental health. Please ask your child to sign up by joining the class using the code below.

Year 5		Year 6	
5EKI	plfcxhe	6IBO	waqlju4
5KFE	lcz73lx	6MST	qujkg26
5FHA	2kebojg	6RAL	xtff6wy
		6PGA	4qffdwx
Year 7		Year 8	
7CAR	sjicnft	8EST	mayd6ux
7JJO	llvyafy	8IHO	ktlmpij
7CCA	2ngcujc	8JKW	nnjerde
7AMG	by4vbuo	8JET	j3qjjqk
7SFO	xeovf3o		

Art and Music Codes

Miss Lawton and Mr Holdsworth have now set their classes up on Google Classroom. Up to now, we have set practical projects on our website and these still remain. Now we are more used to the online

way of working, we are sharing these codes so that you can now join your groups. There is one code per year group for art and music; here you will find engaging work to keep you busy.

Art			
Year 5	cdk5oi2	Year 7	od4cvf7
Year 6	gxaemhj	Year 8	kfylih6
Music			
Year 5	vyidapc	Year 7	ptpnixb
Year 6	gwuo25c	Year 8	7bkq6hu

Staff Lockdown Blog

All of the staff here at HMS are missing life at school and miss seeing all of our pupils every day. We are all enjoying keeping in touch the best we can whether that be on Google Classroom, over the phone or emails - we want to hear from our pupils as much as possible. Positivity is so important at this time and we want to share our experiences of life in lockdown - staying at home, protecting the NHS and saving lives. Please look out for regular blog posts from our staff team which will be posted on social media and on [our new website page](#). Please share these posts with your children so they can enjoy them and feel free to share your own responses to say hello. The first blog post went live on Tuesday with a special appearance from Mrs Roff with some very happy news!

The Weekly Challenge!

During this time, the teachers want to encourage all of our pupils to try something new! These activities have to be done safely at home - we want them to be engaging, challenging and something that the whole family can get involved with. Try to collaborate with people at home and enjoy these activities as a group challenge, if you can. We would love it if you could share photographs or videos of your challenges in the comments on our Facebook page so we can all keep in touch (you could also email them into us if you prefer). Let's all stay positive, share good news and give these challenges a go! The first STEM challenge has been set by Mrs Gregory with many more lined up from our very creative teachers. We will also be adding new video challenges to the website and social media so look out for some familiar HMS faces soon. Good luck!

We thank you once again for your ongoing support and positivity during this challenging period. This summer term has started like no other, but we continue to work together to support our young people. Keep in touch with us, stay safe and take care all of you.

With many thanks

Mr Watters, Mrs Frankish and all of the staff at HMS