Dear Parents/Carers

As another week of home learning came to an end and another week is beginning, I am yet again amazed by all the fantastic and imaginative learning that the children have been completing. Please see the presentation on your child’s class pages! We all recognise the pressures that parents must be under; in many cases, trying to juggle working from home yourselves, with looking after and supporting the children with their learning, so I just want to express my thanks to you all for really rising to the challenge!

The brief rainy spell last week came as a bit of a change for us all and it sometimes feels a lot more frustrating on ‘Lock down’ when there are grey clouds to look at, so I am sure you were as delighted as I was to see the sun creeping back out and it looks like it is going to stay around for a little while at least!

Your teachers are still working hard behind the scenes, even if most of you can’t see them. They are planning lessons for you both for whilst Lockdown is in place and making plans and preparing resources and activities for the future when we get together again. We hoped you liked their messages in the last newsletter!

Our approach during this time has been to try to keep as much of our curriculum being covered and ensuring as much contact as possible with our school community. The staff have been working hard and reaching out to families to check how things are going.

I just have to mention on Monday we received a special delivery to the school. Layla T in Year 1, made us a special wreath with the message: Holyport CE Primary School. ‘When the world stayed apart—we stayed together’ and I think no other words are needed! Thank you Layla and family for this very touching gift, it must have taken a long time to make!

Well done to you all for your efforts in keeping this message at the heart of our community. Parents are repeatedly asking us to pass on their thanks to the staff – whom are keen to make sure that our key worker children can still come into school to ensure their parents can keep fighting the coronavirus; and that our children at home can continue with their learning.

Ramadan Mubarak to all of our Muslim families observing Ramadan currently during these difficult times.

TTR Battles
A number of you have been asking when we will have our next battle.
I can announce that it will start on Monday 11th May till Monday 18th 12pm

Quick Read
Ramadan Mubarak
Fundraising During Lockdown
Father Ainsley’s Story Spot
Book of Holyport Hopes—New!
VE Day 75th Anniversary & Bunting Activity
E Safety & Covid-19 Guidance
Braywick Nature Reserve
Special Feature—Virtual School Games
Spotlight on...
I know that we all eagerly await some further government guidance on what will be happening with regards to schools opening. All we can do at present is to make tentative plans based on a number of possible scenarios, but obviously this could all change depending on the news we receive. We will keep you updated on any developments! In the meantime, we will continue to support and provide home learning opportunities for the children through the school website and provide feedback through the class emails.

And finally...as you will know Friday is a bank holiday and so teachers have not set work for that day but we have put VE day linked ideas up on the website that you can choose to do with your child if you wish and there is a bunting activity with help from the BBC. If you would like to talk more with your child about this then here is a good website to use is below and and also see the bunting activity.

https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/48201749

With best wishes for a safe and healthy week ahead,

Amanda Featherstone
Headteacher

**Fundraising During Lockdown!**

Please help! Obviously the school is going to be hard hit in terms of fundraising during lockdown. However, there is still a way you can help us raise funds, even when you’re stuck at home! When you are doing your essential shopping online, via supermarkets and Amazon and many other retailers etc, please go through ‘Easyfundraising’ with Holyport CE Primary School as your cause - and help raise money for school at no cost to you whatsoever:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/

**Father Ainsley’s Assembly Spot**

Father Ainsley has recorded some of the ‘Maximus Mouse’ stories, that he uses in school, on the St Michael’s Church Facebook page, please take a look if you are interested.

**Book of Holyport Hopes**

Children’s author Katherine Rundell has masterminded the collaboration of more than 110 children’s authors and illustrators to create a new book called ‘The Book of Hopes’, the aim being to spread hope to all who read it. The book is free and only available online at the moment, you can view it at:

https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/9-12/book-hopes/

Here at Holyport School we would like to make our own Book of Holyport Hopes with children’s short stories, poems or illustrations conveying messages of hope for our community. This idea will form the basis of the English work set by the teachers across the school in the week beginning 18th May so look out for it.

**VE Day 75th Anniversary**

We are inviting our families to help mark 75 years since VE Day by creating Great British Bunting. This tribute will be posted in the next edition of the school newsletter to remember and to thank those of the Second World War generation. Please send in your bunting pictures to us!

The BBC have created some step by step instructions and tips for your bunting. Please see the link

https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/4TrqYDyf4PMdLypxzyTwGDg/great-british-bunting

Locally, there is a ‘Join your neighbours in a nationwide ‘stay at home’ street party’ which members of the Holyport Community are taking part in. There is a schedule for day, which starts at 11am with a 2 min silence on your doorstep, 3pm Churchill’s speech will be shown on the BBC, then grab your picnic blankets or garden table and head to your front garden for 4pm tea and scones (or coffee and cake) and 6pm dinner to a 9pm sing a long to ‘We’ll Meet Again’ with the Royal British Legion after the Queens address. Please remember to follow the social distancing rules.

**E-Safety is Essential During Home Learning**

At this time when children will be online more often, it is important to keep them safe. Please visit the NSPCC website for more information:

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/

**Braywick Nature Reserve**

Braywick Nature Reserve have put together some fabulous nature videos which we can still connect with nature even in our own front rooms.

https://vimeo.com/411433428
**Special Feature - Sports at Holyport by Mr Deverall**

**The Virtual School Games**

The School Sports Partnership has organised a virtual school games, this provides the children with an element of competition during these difficult times. We as a school, have always participated in many different competitions and festivals and represent the school with great pride, so we would love to carry that on and be involved in this great initiative.

The Virtual School Games is organised by Berkshire Active. Each week, there will be a new event. The Berkshire Virtual Games series has been created to support schools implement a competitive element to their school PE & Sport provision - whilst pupils are at home or school during the COVID-19 situation. Weekly events will be published on the GBA (Get Berkshire Active) website. These events will mostly be aimed at KS2 children, however there our plans to organise events for KS1 pupils too.

**How It Will Work**

Each week, I will upload the activity cards for the event onto the school’s website. This shows you what you need to do, including video demonstrations. I will also provide a scorecard for you to complete. This can be found under the tab “Help with Keeping Active?” which can be found under the “Children” Section on our school website. If your child would like to take part, they can email me to show their interest, please let me know if they would like to do this for fun, or if they would like to be part of a team and enter the competition. Teams will be made up of 6 children, with at least 2 girls and 2 boys in a team.

Once the teams are sorted, the children can download the activity cards and scorecards and then email me their results. I will then pass on the results to the school games organisers. No pictures or videos are needed as evidence, however if you do wish to share your work and efforts through pictures or videos, please feel free to share them with me via the new email address. The aim for this is to provide the children with a competitive focus, however more importantly; it is to keep them active and engaged with physical activity. We would love to have as many children taking part as possible.

**Keeping In Touch**

An email address has been set up to communicate with me, if you have any questions, or would like to share some of the activities you have been doing at home. I would love to showcase all of the great physical activities our children at the school have been up to, so if you do send me some pictures and videos and are happy for me to share them on the school website, please give permission as you send the photos in.

Email: sports@holyportprimaryschool.co.uk

**Keeping Active at Home**

I hope that everyone has been able to access some activity during lockdown. I myself have been doing Joe Wicks most mornings, or going for walks or runs to try and keep active. I have also uploaded lots of exercises for you to do on the school website. This can be found under Children- Help with keeping active. Recently we launched weekly ball challenges and attached scorecards for you to track your progress, please send them in to the email above - I would love to see your results!
This Week’s Spotlight is on...
Our activity adventurer Sanur!

A special shout out to Sanur in Year 1, who completed all his Year 1 activities in our special booklet we sent home over Easter. He has been the first to complete all activities - being able to customise a few to suit the lockdown.

He received a certificate in the post as a surprise well done for his efforts. I hope he spurs a few more on to complete their list! We look forward to seeing your activities! Why not try one on the bank holiday this week as a change from the timetable!

Stay at Home Guidance

Please continue to adhere to the Government guidance on social distancing.

Only go outside for food, health reasons or essential work (but only if you cannot work from home)
• If you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times
• Wash your hands as soon as you get home
• Do not meet others, even friends or family. You can spread the virus even if you don’t have symptoms.

DfE Coronavirus Helpline

The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children’s social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline as follows: Phone: 0800 046 8687

Opening hours:
8am to 6pm – Monday to Friday
10am to 4pm – Saturday and Sunday

At school, we have been showing our support for the NHS and for everyone to keep positive at this difficult time.

“Love Learning, Love Life...in all its fullness” Holyport CE Primary School Stroud Farm Road, Maidenhead SL6 2LP