

THE HAMLET HERALD



'Outstanding learning, within a glittering curriculum, where everyone matters'

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HEAD OF SCHOOL'S NOTE: GOOGLE CLASSROOM UPDATE

We are now approaching the end of our second full week of utilising Google Classroom as our online home learning platform. The whole school community have been on a steep learning curve during this time, and I think we all deserve a pat on the back. I do have to keep reminding myself that what we have collectively achieved to date, ordinarily would be a significant piece of school development, taking the full school year to plan, prepare, trial and then run. Not bad for a few weeks in the making. This is of course against the backdrop of our families and DHJS team managing personal circumstances; everyone will have their own Covid-19 story to tell...

We have been really impressed with the overall quality of work being 'turned-in' from our Hamleteers. We know they are doing their best. As such, we are looking forward to the return of our Achievement Certificates. We will prepare a Celebration Assembly video for the children early next week where we can share in each other's successes. Look out for hard copies of the certificates through letter boxes.

It was inevitable that there would be obstacles and challenges to overcome, and that we would need to be making revisions and tweaks as we go. None of us were GC experts going into this. As the teachers have been taking it in turns to run 'Key Worker' school, they have been on the child's side of GC, supporting the children through their daily activities, learning how GC is working first-hand. As experienced educators, we know how critical task design is to the quality of learning and outcomes, which comes naturally to us in a classroom setting. Our priority this week has been learning what works best and re-imagining tasks for this new way.

One thing we have recognised is that we have over-estimated the effort required to read our instructions for a task, even for our Y6 children. We have therefore looked to simply and keep these to a minimum, easing access into the task for the children. We have also taken note of how quickly the 'streams' move and as such, daily messages and feedback can get lost amongst the 'conversation' as it progresses. As such, we are now posting feedback and messages/videos as 'assignments' within the classwork tab, so that they remain fixed. (We can also then note who has accessed them!)

I am very aware that the children are missing the face-to-face contact with their teachers - we are missing them too. This is why we are preparing daily messages from the class teacher, two each week being videos. The teachers are also now sharing a story across the year group, and I hope the children are enjoying listening to these three times weekly sessions from their teachers. The year teams are also preparing further videos linked to a couple of assignments from across the curriculum, which we hope will aide engagement and motivation. The Y3 Mythical Story video certainly kept me entertained! Further to this, we hope the children have enjoyed their weekly science 'show' with Professor Harris – the new talents just keep on emerging... Nothing, however, can really substitute for the daily personal contact that we take for granted and have in normal times.

We have been asked about the possibility of weekly individualised feedback from the class teachers via a platform such as zoom. We know that the most effective feedback is immediate and acted upon, and in a normal

classroom setting, what benefits one child, almost certainly benefits the majority. In providing our daily whole class feedback in GC, this enables us to quickly pick up on misconceptions and key areas of learning which may require some further explanation, all while this is still relatively fresh for the child. (They will have almost certainly moved on to the next thing once they have 'turned in' an assignment). In exceptional circumstances, a child may receive a personal message from the class teacher.

We have been quite overwhelmed by emails from parents and carers this week, particularly regarding Google Classroom and ideas/suggestions you have for improving our home learning provision. We always welcome your feedback. As such, I mentioned in the HH last week that we would provide you with a route to do this where we can collate a much broader picture from you all. We have, therefore, created an online questionnaire which we would like as many parents/carers to complete as possible. You can complete this just as a parent, or alongside your child, or if your child would like to complete a questionnaire themselves, you can submit a response each. We would like a quick turnaround with this, and so our deadline for submitting will be the end of Wednesday 6th May. The questionnaire is now 'live', and you can access by following this link:

<https://forms.gle/MJBxQ9zG5WrAJkKK9>

It shouldn't take you long to complete. Thank you in advance for working with us to best support our Hamleteers.

Claire