



Hollymount School Newsletter

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13th March 2020



It has been quite a week for us all. Whilst the leadership team ensure we have everything in place to reduce the risk of the Coronavirus, the staff have been working hard to continue to provide excellent teaching and learning for your children. I fully understand that this can be an extremely anxious time for children and parents. I want to reassure you that we have got all precautions in place to reduce the risk associated with the Coronavirus. This includes:

- Increased hand washing across the school for staff and children
- Hand cleaning facilities for those entering the school at Reception
- Hygiene lessons for all children
- Re-risk assessing all trips and visitors and responding to these assessments. Postponing trips and visitors (including parent events) when necessary.
- Following Public Health England, DfE and Local Authority guidance
- Working closely with cluster schools to share good practice
- Regular updates to parents
- A clear business continuity plan IS in place if the school is closed.

These are extraordinary times and it is a very fluid situation. We will continue to send regular updates to parents. The school is fully prepared to provide learning for children at home through our Virtual School if the school closes. Information on how to access this will be shared with parents if the school is closed. We are using the Parent App to send regular updates, so please inform the office if you do not have access to it and they will set it up for you. I understand this can be a worrying time and many of you will have different views or perspectives on how we should manage and respond to this situation. As such, I appreciate your support and understanding as we navigate through uncharted waters. If you have any questions, please do contact me or the office. There may be questions we are unable to answer but we will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible.

Current Government Guidance

Children should continue to attend school as normal. Parents/Carers should follow the guidance below:

- Children must remain at home for 7 days if they have, however mild, a new continuous cough OR a high temperature. If your child has these symptoms, they must remain at home for 7 days and you must inform the school. This also applies to your child if they are currently showing any of these symptoms.
- Parents/Carers that show either of these symptoms must remain at home for 7 days and must not enter the school grounds during this period.
- We will update parents about the two residential trips taking place in the Summer Term (Year 3 trip to Dorset and the Year 6 trip to France) nearer the time.

Postponed Events

Due to the current situation, we have decided to postpone a number of event including Grandparents Day in Reception, Profile Look for parents in Reception, Community Week at the end of this term and Hollymount Heroes. As this is a fluid situation, please do look out for updates on the Parent App/ Parent Pay and emails from class reps.



Date List

March

Monday 16th

LOW KEY WEEK

Tuesday 17th

Year 1 Animal Man workshop

Wednesday 18th

Reception Eye Screening

Year 6 to Lantern Arts

Friday 20th

Years 3/4/5 Challenge Run

Tuesday 24th

Year 3 Roman Workshop

Thursday 26th

Hockey Finals at London

Youth Games

Thursday 2nd

Year 5/6 Tri Gold Competition

Friday 3rd

2pm End of Term



@HollymountHt

@hollySchool1

www.hollymount.org

Respect ~ Courage ~ Happiness ~ Friendship ~ Appreciation ~ Responsibility

Year 4 WWII Day

Last week, Year 4 had a visit from the Home Front Bus as part of their WW2 topic. The children experienced what it would be like to hide out from falling bombs in an Anderson shelter, and learned about rationing. The children also wrote letters as evacuees, sewed holes in socks as they learned to 'Make do and Mend', and enjoyed a feast to celebrate VE day. Such a lovely time was had by all! Some of that blitz spirit may be needed over the next few weeks!



How to talk to your child about the Coronavirus

Here is some advice from the PSHE association on how to talk to children about the Coronavirus.

When discussing coronavirus:

- Reinforce hygiene routines such as hand-washing technique and important times to carry out these routines, such as before leaving home, on arriving at school, before eating and after using the toilet.
- Stress that currently most people are at low risk of catching the virus, and even if they do most people's symptoms are not serious.
- Introduce or reinforce practices to prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses, such as coughing into the crook of the elbow, catching a sneeze in a tissue, putting the tissue in the bin and washing hands. Alternatively, if they don't have a tissue, they should sneeze into their sleeve not onto their hand.
- Emphasise the importance of avoiding touching the eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands and of not sharing cups or bottles.
- Challenge misconceptions that associate coronavirus with any particular group of people and signpost accurate sources of information such as the NHS or Public Health England.
- Be mindful that some children may feel more anxious about coronavirus, for example those who are concerned for elderly relatives. It may not be apparent if your child is, so keeping this in mind when discussing this topic will help to avoid unnecessary distress.

Is important to avoid:

- Approaches to discussing coronavirus that could induce fear, or focus on a worst-case scenario.
- Causing feelings of guilt or using blaming language regarding the transmission of coronavirus. Emphasis should be on routines to reduce transmission.
- Encouraging stereotypes or assumptions associated with coronavirus. Pupils need to understand that there is not a higher chance of catching it from people of any particular group, nationality, or race.

Teachers are following this guidance when talking about the coronavirus with the children.



Year 5/6 Rugby

The Hollymount rugby team made it through to the Borough Finals last week. They had a successful tournament making it to the quarter finals and eventually finishing 5th out of 20 schools in the finals. Well done to our Year 6's Milo, Josh, Austin, Marco, Harry, Aliyah, Jem, Yasmine and Sienna. We are very proud of the progress you made and the tremendous rugby spirit you showed in all games.



How you can help the school

- Keep up to date with the government guidance and follow the guidance on the front of this newsletter if your child shows any of the named symptoms.
- Prevent the spread of infection by:
 - washing your hands often - with soap and water, or use alcohol sanitiser if handwashing facilities are not available. Ensure your children are also washing their hands regularly. This is particularly important after taking public transport
 - always wash your hands when you get home or into work
 - covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in a bin.
 - avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
 - avoid close contact with people who are unwell
 - clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
 - put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- Give the school any spare hand sanitiser you have
- Reduce the anxiety by remaining calm and following government guidance.
- Avoid speculation with other parents about future actions and illnesses in school.
- Speak to the office or the Senior Leadership Team (Mr Birnage, Miss Pope, Mrs Daffue, Mrs Lindsay and Mrs Jennings) if you have any concerns or questions. WhatsApp groups may not help the situation!
- If your child is unwell, please call the school OR email pupilabsences@hollymount.merton.sch.uk OR use the School App. PLEASE STATE THE SYMPTOMS OF THE ILLNESS and NOT JUST SAY "THEY ARE UNWELL".

Village Sports free delivery

School uniform and sports equipment free delivery promotion

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Due to recent events we would like to offer our customers free local delivery & shipping on all web orders for one month – starting today!

Simply enter code **EASTERFREE20** at checkout, from 1pm today. You can use this code as many times as you like until Tuesday 14th April.

Happy shopping!

Village Sports

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