

Dear Parents

Boris Johnson's announcement on Wednesday confirming that 8th March is the target for starting to return children to the classroom is welcomed, although it is later than we had all hoped for. With any luck, it will signal the beginning of a more optimistic period. Clearly, this return date is subject to a range of other factors and is not guaranteed, but it does provide some hope for the future as we are all aware that juggling both work and the children being at home is not an easy task.

Feedback from parents, children and staff indicates that things are going well on the whole. We know you are doing the best you can, in any way you can, but please keep in mind that, when the children returned last September, they very quickly got back into the routine of school and started to make good progress, catching up on the learning they had missed. During the first lockdown, the National Curriculum was suspended. During this lockdown, the children are carrying on with the topics/themes they would have been taught had they been in school. Therefore, when they do return, we are sure the children will once again settle back into school life and continue to make good progress. We will always have high expectations of children's learning at Hayton School as, after their safety and wellbeing, nothing is more important.

As we have said before, we are not expecting parents and carers to be a replacement for school and its teachers, but we do want you to continue to listen to your children and to work with them. For example, after speaking with parents this week, some children clearly like to get their work completed in one sitting so they know they are free to do as they wish for the rest of the day, whereas other children love to dawdle through the timetable and make 4 hours of learning last a whole week! Which option is right? There is no right option. As long as your children are happy, safe and engaged (at least for some of the day!) in their school work, then the main objective has been achieved. Family wellbeing is our primary concern during periods of absence from school such as these.

So, with this in mind, don't forget to encourage your children to get out in the fresh air, go for walks, ride their bikes, play some games in the garden, go for a run, take part in the Garden birdwatch this weekend or count stars one night in February as part of a citizen science project (see below), rather than sitting at the computer all day. It is really important to exercise the body as well as the mind, especially in winter time!

Big Garden Birdwatch 2021 – 29th - 31st January

Join thousands of people taking part this weekend to see the drama unfold on your doorstep. Spend an hour counting the birds you see in your garden or park. Everyone can take part for free, whether you're a novice birdwatcher, or a seasoned professional <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/>

Star Count

Star Count is an annual survey of the nation's view of the night sky. Just look to the heavens between 6th - 14th February and count the number of stars you see in the constellation of Orion to help us map how light pollution affects our view of the stars. The information pack is on your Google Classroom page.

The Eden Rivers Trust

The Eden Rivers Trust have a primary school's area on their website for a variety of new and updated resources such as The Adventurous Salmon (an engaging illustrated poem about the life cycle of an Atlantic Salmon), River Detectives (a fun animated film) and 24 outdoor activities to help children learn about and explore their local area. All of these resources would be suitable to supplement our home-learning provision edenrivertrust.org.uk/primary-schools/

The Field Studies Council Lessons

The Field Studies Council (FSC) are running a series of lessons next week. The sessions will be broadcast on their YouTube channel. They will run for approximately 40 minutes and each of the episodes is accompanied with a set of resources, including worksheets and 'how-to' guides. Whether you want to join them for a nature walk, learn about garden birds or discover the secret to building the best woodland shelter, this series of 5 lessons might be for you. The FSC will also be looking at how our various habitats are affected by climate change and what you can do in your own home to try and combat it. To access the lessons, you are required to register using the following link:

https://field-studies-council.us4.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=07172d032f8f4d037796d33b9&id=b14ed38d03&ref=email&dm_i=65YE,5EJE,23J94Y,MQAA,1

Live lesson schedule:

['What to do on a walk'](#) Date: Tuesday 2nd Feb 2021 - 10:30 AM

['Brilliant Birds!'](#) Date: Thursday 4th Feb 2021 - 10:30 AM

['A Peep at Ponds'](#) Date: Tuesday 9th Feb 2021 - 10:30 AM

['Wild Skills - Shelters and traps!'](#) Date: Thursday 11th Feb - 10:30 AM

['More things to do on a walk!'](#) Date: Tuesday 23rd Feb 2021 - 10:30 AM

Chess

Mr Lydon has kindly recorded and sent in some video lessons for those classes he teaches chess to in school. They can now be found on your Google Classroom. He is also going to run a chess tournament using the Chesskids website. Last year, some children were issued with logins for the ChessKids site. If your child had one of these logins and still wants to use it, please can you let Mrs Gosson-Low know as soon as possible.

MyTime Cumbria & E-School Nurse

MyTime will be hosting free Zoom information sessions for parents and carers from 1st February 2021. The "Supporting your child's mental health through the pandemic" sessions will provide informal practical advice and ideas that can help you to support the mental health of you and your child through the pandemic. The E-

School Nurse is available twice weekly, providing online health support and advice for parents, carers and professionals supporting children and young people aged 5-19 years old. For information on dates and how to book any of these services, please see the attached documents.

Lateral Flow Testing

Covid tests for all staff have arrived and testing twice a week has started, meaning we can be even more covid-secure. Many of our critical worker parents/carers also undertake their own regular workplace testing, so hopefully this extra measure will keep us as safe as we can be on site, until vaccinations arrive for us all.

Starting Nursery - Academic Year 2021_2022

If you wish to apply for a Nursery Place for the next academic year 2021_2022 starting in September, please request an application form from the School Office by emailing admin@hayton.cumbria.sch.uk.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Mrs Gosson-Low

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him” (Romans 15:13)