



Holywell Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr Coert van Straaten MA, Ed, Dip Edu, NPQH
we are a learning community with the spirit to succeed

30th April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to parents to clarify expectations on teaching and learning. As a school we have made good progress over recent weeks to get home schooling off the ground. I don't know of many schools that are going to the extent that we are. I ask parents follow the schedule set out by their teacher as closely as possible.

The teachers at Holywell Primary School have been amazing over the last 6 weeks and have shown amazing flexibility, resilience and patience. As we continue to develop our practice, it is becoming more and more apparent that online learning brings its own demands.

We have 417 pupils registered on Purple Mash and of those 109 signed on yesterday to do learning. That is a total of 171 pupils this week. We think we are catering for families who share devices and families where parents still work. Learning needs to be flexible and we appreciate that parents find it difficult to think like teachers. We are trying to meet the needs of as many pupils as possible.

As a school we are going above and beyond what is required of us during this time, we want our pupils to continue to learn. We want to support parents as much as possible and I want to protect the wellbeing of the staff at Holywell Primary School. So a few rules -

1. All work will be set on Google Classroom from Monday 4th May 2020, no work will be set via email.
2. All lessons from next week will be delivered via Google Meets which is much more user friendly than Microsoft Teams.
3. Teachers will set deadlines to work.
4. Teachers will recognise all work with a basic comment when the deadline has passed.
5. Teachers will give more detailed feedback to the class as a group once a week in English and maths.
6. Teacher can only respond to queries about lessons while they are going on.
7. Be polite, respectful and curious to staff when corresponding with them.

As well as teaching, teachers have many other responsibilities plus they spent a day a week at school caring for Key Workers children. Therefore from next week teachers will have time away from their computers to work on things that they get time for during the school day. During this time your child will be set assembly work, Art work and Spanish work, as well as other activities to keep them busy. Parents should also take time to ensure their child works away from their screens.

Yours faithfully

Mr C van Straaten
Headteacher

