



Mount Hawke Academy

Head of School: Miss C Biddick

15.1.21

Dear Families

In amongst all the rearranging and reorganising of the last few weeks, it feels that Christmas has almost been forgotten. I hope that you managed to have a very happy and enjoyable Christmas and New Year, and that you had some super family time together.

Now that we are in the Spring Term, whether your child is coming into school or staying at home, I would like you to remember that we are very much still open. The staff here are very understanding of all the different circumstances that everyone is facing, and how these can change overnight too. We know that home schooling and working from home can be really tricky and is absolutely not what any of us want. You have all had to adapt very quickly in response to this latest national lockdown and this can't have been easy for adults or children. I want to take the opportunity to say thank you for all that you are doing and remind you to be kind to yourselves and realistic about what can be achieved in any one day.

For those who are coming into school, I would like to say thank you very much for only sending your child to school when you have to. On the days that you are not sending your child in, please remember that they still need to be completing the work set in their eclassroom.

School continues whether the children are learning in our building or at home and the work set for home is mirroring what is being taught in class so it is really important for everyone to keep as up to date as possible ready for when we can welcome everyone back into the building.

We have been very fortunate that none of our classes have had to close as the result of a positive case. However, if we have a child currently attending school or a staff member test positive, the relevant class bubble will need to isolate. This means there would then be no critical worker provision for any of those children for the isolation period.

Remote Learning

You will have received our Remote Learning letter already with details of our updated offer at this time. Since then, staff have been in regular communication with many of you, providing support to help you access this. For some, there have been frustrating technical difficulties – well done and thank you for persevering!

The vast majority of pupils have been able to access their daily lessons and have been submitting their work for feedback. Our digital platforms enable us to see the children's work and respond accordingly as we plan further teaching and learning activities. They have impressed us all with their efforts and we will continue to share examples of the fabulous work through our social media channels.

Keeping in Touch

Everyone who is at home will receive a phone call from their class teacher and through next week we aim to have spoken to EVERY Mount Hawke Academy family. Please do not wait for these calls though. If you need to speak to someone, do contact us immediately.

We have had excellent feedback from many parents about the use of Tapestry (EYFS), Seesaw (Y1 & Y2) and Google Classroom (Y3-Y6) but we are always looking for further ways to support our families. Through next week we are going to be setting up Google Meets, ready to go the week after. These will be our 'live' wellbeing group sessions for the children who are working from home. More details will follow next week. We will continue to look for further ways to develop our remote learning offer. We are very aware that different methods of connecting with children and families depend very much on children's age and family circumstances and that one size does not fit all.

We have just received a limited number of Free Data SIM cards. These can be put into a smart laptop or dongle, or a smartphone to tether a device to the hotspot on the phone and will give 30GB for 90 days. Please let us know if you would benefit from one of these.

Communications

Remember to use the email hello@mounthawke.org or phone 01209 890230 if you need to speak to one of us or let us know about something or share something with us.

All of us here at school would like to wish you a very happy and safe weekend.



T: 01209 890230

E: hello@mounthawke.org W: www.mounthawke.org

Mount Hawke Academy, Rodda's Road, Mt Hawke, Truro, Cornwall TR4 8BA

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Registered Office: Aspire Academy Trust, Unit 20, St Austell Business Park, St Austell, Cornwall PL25 4FD

