



PARK HILL JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Croydon
CR0 5NS
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Head Teacher: Mrs A. Pratt
www.phjs.co.uk

Friday 12th February 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers,

It is unusual for us to start our letters in this way but we must do so today and hope you will join us in acknowledging the staff at Park Hill Junior School and what they have done to ensure your children's learning and wellbeing has been well catered for in a situation which is fairly new to us all. As a leadership team we are so proud of them. It was unknown circumstances for us all last March and maybe one of the most challenging times that we have all lived through. Having said that, it is incredible how quickly we have all adapted to our situation - thank you for your partnership.

We understand that as parents you feel anxious at the prospect of your children learning from home for so long. But, a year on, we are now prepared and used to teaching remotely. Teachers and support staff, as well as us as a leadership team, have undertaken additional training and embraced the support available from different remote learning programs and platforms. We know you are more confident with what you might previously have found daunting because of the questions you ask in meetings and conversations. The same applies to our teaching and support staff, they are now used to recording videos and being seen on screens.

Over the past half term we have had regular live interaction between teachers and their class, the children and their peers, in taking a blended approach to remote education. This has progressively helped with engagement for the children. Taking the register is one of the simplest but most effective things we have introduced. It is a magical moment when they all log on together in the morning – they are so excited to see their friends in the classroom on screen. Some can feel isolated at home, so seeing the class and feeling part of it motivates them.

The live sessions, mixed with pre-recorded lessons made by our teachers and the interventions offered, some by the Learning Support Assistants and Individual Support Assistants have been vital. We do not let the children go for long without checking in through our 3 daily live sessions, and we make sure that we are monitoring their progress at home through regular formative assessments followed up with high quality feedback.

In developing and improving our provision, we have found that reviewing our offer has highlighted strengths and key areas for development, with a focus on tailoring tasks, engagement, assessment and quality feedback to ensure that pupils are keeping pace with the curriculum.

As parents ourselves, we have also experienced first-hand how challenging it is when trying to meet our own deadlines and also get our children to work. We have listened to your feedback and made some changes to our remote learning provision which would enable the pupils to engage with fewer tasks and deeper thinking



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through self marking. They will also have the opportunity to complete more tasks away from the screen as highlighted below.

Following feedback from pupils, parents and staff, we are making the following changes to our remote provision from Monday 22nd February:

Daily learning activities:

- Maths plus arithmetic 3 times a week
- English
- Guided Reading

One foundation subject daily. Each foundation subject will be set fortnightly and below is an example:

Week 1:

- Geography/History
- RE
- PE
- Computing
- Art/D.T.

Week 2:

- Science
- Jigsaw (PSHE)
- PE
- Music
- Spanish/French

We will be continuing with our three live sessions a day: registration, the morning drop in and a session at 3pm. All children will have plenary sessions on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday with their class; on Wednesday there will be a class assembly and Friday there will be a whole year group session so children can see their peers in the other classes. This change is following feedback from the children that they would like to have both class and year group sessions. We will continue to record all live sessions for safeguarding reasons, this is only for school records.

We have updated our suggested timetable for you, if you wish to use it. An A4 version can be downloaded from [here](#).

	9-9:30	9:30-10	10-11	11-12		12-1	1-2	2-3		3-3:15		
Y3	Live session - Registration & Introduction of the day's learning	Reading & Physical activity	10-10:15 Break	10:15-11:15 Maths (with pre-recorded video – accessible all day)	11:15 – 11:45 Guided Reading (with pre-recorded video – accessible all day)	11:45 – 12:00 Mathletics & TTRS	12:00 – 12:15 Live session – Drop in session (Optional)	12:15 – 1:00 Lunch	1:00 – 2:00 English (with pre-recorded video – accessible all day)	2:00 – 2:15 Break	2:15 – 3:00 Foundation Subjects e.g. History/music/computing (with pre-recorded video – accessible all day)	3:00 – 3:15 Live session – Plenary (Optional) or Assembly on Wednesday only or Year Group Assembly on Friday
Y4	Reading & Physical activity	Live session - Registration & Introduction of the day's learning	10-10:15 Break	10:15-11:15 Maths (with pre-recorded video – accessible all day)	11:15 – 11:45 Guided Reading (with pre-recorded video – accessible all day)	11:45 – 12:00 Live session – Drop in session (Optional)	12-12:15 Mathletics & TTRS	12:15 – 1:00 Lunch	1:00 – 2:00 English (with pre-recorded video – accessible all day)	2:00 – 2:15 Break	2:15 – 3:00 Foundation Subjects e.g. History/music/computing (with pre-recorded video – accessible all day)	3:00 – 3:15 Live session – Plenary (Optional) or Assembly on Wednesday only or Year Group Assembly on Friday
Y5	Reading & Physical activity	Live session - Registration & Introduction of the day's learning	10-10:15 Break	10:15 – 11:30 Maths & Guided Reading (with pre-recorded video – accessible all day)	11:30 – 11:45 Live session – Drop in session (Optional)	11:45 – 12:00 Mathletics & TTRS	12:00 – 12:45 Lunch	12:45 – 1:45 English (with pre-recorded video – accessible all day)	1:45 – 2:00 Break	2:00 – 3:00 Foundation Subjects e.g. History/music/computing (with pre-recorded video – accessible all day)	3:00 – 3:15 Live session – Plenary (Optional) or Assembly on Wednesday only or Year Group Assembly on Friday	
Y6	Live session - Registration & Introduction of the day's learning	Reading & Physical activity	10-10:15 Break	10:15-11:15 Maths (with pre-recorded video – accessible all day)	11:15 – 11:30 Live session – Drop in session (Optional)	11:30 – 12:00 Guided Reading (with pre-recorded video – accessible all day)	12:00 – 12:45 Lunch	12:45 – 1:45 English (with pre-recorded video – accessible all day)	1:45 – 2:00 Break	2:00 – 3:00 Foundation Subjects e.g. History/music/computing (with pre-recorded video – accessible all day)	3:00 – 3:15 Live session – Plenary (Optional) or Assembly on Wednesday only or Year Group Assembly on Friday	



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As parents ourselves, some tips we can give you are as follows:

- Get the children out of bed early and stick to the school day routine.
- If you can, have a defined space for children to work in – somewhere to sit with the things they need around them.
- Keep the structure of the school day and establish a routine based on the circumstances of your home. At school, breaks are built into the timetable, so the children are not working solidly for four hours – let them run around a bit outside or do some exercises.
- It is really important that children shut down their computers when school finishes.

Most importantly, remember that you are not alone. We are all in this together so keep in touch with us and seek help if you need it.

- Via phone call - 02086868623, between the hours of 8:30am and 4pm
- Via email - office@phjs.foliotrust.uk. Can be used at anytime
- Via the Senior Leaders email - phjssl@phjs.foliotrust.uk
- Via your child's Google Classroom page, in the private message to staff.

Please note that we have recently updated our privacy notice which can be found here: <https://www.phjs.co.uk/our-school/school-policies>

Have a much deserved break in the half term and have lots of outdoor fun with your children and stay safe! Our February newsletter contained lots of ideas for enjoying our local area. We look forward to seeing all the children either online or for the few, at school on the 22nd of February.

Yours sincerely,

The Park Hill Junior School Leadership Team



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