



Dear Parent/ Carers

Another half term begins and school continues to be very different for all of us. We continue to be very proud of our pupils for their hard work and commitment shown to their learning. Thank you for all of the support which you continue to show during this very strange period. We have loved seeing many of our year 6 pupils back in school (a letter sent directly to parents of children attending school is available on our website for information).

Remote learning

You will know that the school has now partially reopened and we have many of our year 6 pupils attending, as well as those who access our provision for key workers. We now face the challenge of balancing the in-school and remote provisions. I want to reassure you that we continue to be committed to providing high-quality online learning for the many pupils who cannot yet return to school. Our teachers are working exceptionally hard to prepare lesson resources which will be uploaded onto Google Classroom. The teachers will also continue to review the completion of online learning to ensure that pupils can be motivated to work hard at home. We will be redistributing workload for staff to ensure balance so your child may notice a new teacher in their classroom portal. Our website and social media pages will continually be updated with new challenges and practical activities to engage pupils working at home.

Please note that we have been made aware of a number of technical issues which we know Google are working to fix. In the meantime, please email any work which won't 'turn in' to the teacher's 360 email account. You should also make sure that you are using Chrome as your browser (where possible).

If your child is struggling to access online learning, please contact us as we are also continuing to provide paper packs which can be delivered or posted to you. We know that these have been highly-valued by many of you throughout this period. If your child needs any equipment to enable them to complete their learning, please get in touch and we will always try to help.

Wellbeing support

Our staff have worked very hard to maintain contact with families during this closure period. We are now commencing our second cycle of contacting every family to check-in and see how things are going at home. We want you all to know that we continue to be at the end of the phone or an email and will always get back to you as quickly as we can. If you feel that your child would benefit from additional contact from a member of staff, please get in touch with us and we can arrange for this to happen. Even a short conversation can have a significant impact on a child's wellbeing.

We are now going to introduce a new service called 'HMS Connect'. Parents can contact school and request a telephone slot for their child with a member of staff at an agreed time. This could be because of a particular worry, for example, transition or home learning, or just that you feel your child would benefit from speaking to one of us. More details on this will be sent home soon. This has been a challenging time for everyone and we know that events like this can affect people in different ways. In the meantime remember, we are all in this together, don't struggle on your own, things will get better and we are here to help.

You can continue to contact all staff via the office by phone or email. You can also contact individual teachers via your child's Google Classroom platform – there is an email facility within the platform. All teacher 360 email addresses are firstname.lastname@school360.co.uk or add a comment to your child's work which we will aim to respond to.

Celebrating Year 8

It now looks very unlikely that we will see many of our amazing year 8 pupils back in school before the end of the year. This means we are unable to celebrate their time at HMS in the way we normally would. Mr Barry has sent home correspondence about ordering Leavers' Hoodies and we are arranging a year group photo – this will be a great keepsake! We are also planning a virtual leavers' night for each form class. We will soon be circulating details but this will involve the form class coming together for a celebration night with Mr Barry, their form tutor and other staff members. We hope to see everyone getting involved with these evenings.

For now, please continue to stay safe and well and keep in touch with us. We are missing everyone in school.

Yours faithfully

Mr Watters

Assistant Headteacher