



This week	<p>Dear Parents,</p> <p>As we continue this term with our school community in a variety of locations and contexts I hope that we will all soon feel a little more familiar with new routines and ways of working.</p> <p>The children in school and at home have really impressed staff with their attitude to learning and engagement with tasks. Both school PTA groups met online this week and are working on ways in which they can help to bring our community together and raise some smiles and funds – please look out for more information to follow in due course.</p> <p>Unfortunately we have had one positive case of Covid 19 at Park Hill and this has meant that one group of children have needed to isolate for 10 days. Many thanks to everyone for continuing to support our strategies to keep everyone safe: wearing a face mask on site; maintaining a distance between each other; using hand sanitiser before choosing new reading books etc.</p> <p>Best wishes, Mrs Bradbury</p>
Children Learning at Home	<h3>All Children Learning At Home</h3> <p>This week we have been really impressed with the way in which children at home have engaged with the learning tasks set by staff. Thank you so much to all of you for the magnificent work you are doing in your homes to support children’s learning.</p> <p>It has been really lovely to see so many children in our assemblies and class meetings. These zoom sessions provide a really important opportunity for children to talk with and see their friends and feel part of our school community. The class meetings are also used by class teachers to gain a better understanding of how well children are completing the tasks and to deliver some direct teaching and feedback to the children at home. The teachers are planning the next lessons in response to this information and if your child has not been able to join us for a class meeting this week I would really encourage you to do so next week (see below for times and the recent emails for the zoom links).</p> <p>The Reception children will join the rest of school on Microsoft Teams next week to find their allocated tasks and ask the staff in school any questions about the learning. Reception parents, please take a look at the guide on using MS Teams to help with this transition. Some of the children have not been able to photograph their work this week and the staff would really like to see the assignments that you have completed, if you would like some help with this then please get in touch with us.</p> <p>One of the expectations for remote learning is that teachers will check children’s engagement each day and Teams enables us to do this. If we have not seen or heard from your child in a few days the school office will give you a call and check how things are going and if we can be of any help.</p> <p>We understand that every family and child is managing different circumstances and if you are unable to complete all the tasks set on a given day please do not worry. We ask that every child completes a minimum of one task each day and teachers will indicate which task is the priority.</p>

Reception and Year 1

New Online Platform for Learning at Home

We have subscribed to an online platform called BusyThings that can be accessed by Reception children and Year 1 children at home.

It has a range of interactive, educational games that are designed to consolidate learning and can be completed by a child independently. We would recommend exploring the Literacy and Maths based games first and the ways the level of challenge can be tailored to best suit your child. You can find the login details posted in the general tab of the Year 1 and Reception Teams Page.

Thorns

Extra Activities on Teams

If you a Thorns child you will notice an extra channel on your class Teams page called 'Extra Activities'. Each week Mr. Davies will be posting a video clip with an activity for you to take part in if you wish. As Mrs. Bradbury mentioned in the Parent's Meeting, we would love you to send in pictures of you taking part to add to our display in school so, when we are all able to safely return, you and your classmates can see all of the things you have been doing. You can email your photos to the school office or post them in the 'Extra Activities' channel where Mr. Davies will download them ready for display.

This week's activity is 'Storytime'

All children

What are you busy doing?

We wish to encourage all children, and particularly those learning at home, to send us a photograph of the wonderful things that you are doing at home. This might be your learning tasks, a personal challenge, having some fun in the garden, baking, building a snowman, raising funds for a charity – almost anything you can think of. We know that so many of you did some amazing and wonderfully creative things during the last school closure and I'm sure that you're up to the challenge again. We will display the photographs in school so that all your friends can see them when you are all able to return and you can find yourself in our wonderful display showing all that we did during lockdown. Bea has started us off with an amazing volcano, well done.



Christmas Cookies

Well done to everyone who decorated the Christmas cookies so wonderfully – they look superb. Thank you to all the Christmas Elves who helped with deliveries of these tasty treats in December – you helped to provide a special activity for families and raise some funds for school too.

