



# Ashton Hayes Primary School

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*Aspire to be Amazing!*

Dear Parents,

11.2.2021

Well this was not quite the 'Happy New Year' we wished each other on the 4<sup>th</sup> January! This half term has been another strange and challenging one for us all. Having to adapt so quickly to home-learning really put us all to the test. Managing work, education and keeping a home going, whilst being locked down and unable to leave that home, coupled with the lack of social opportunities and missing extended family and friends is really hard. It is amazing how well our children have adapted and have been giving their all to learning in such strange circumstances. I think that we are all more than ready for the half term holidays and with spring in the air, there seems to be a new sense of hope appearing on the horizon. Before long I am sure we will be welcoming the children back into school to meet with friends and teachers and to get back to the learning experiences that they know and love.

Tomorrow – **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February is an inset day** where all staff will be accessing training online. There will therefore be no home learning activities set for the children. There will also be no Zoom sessions either. Of course you still have log in details for a range of websites and the home learning tab on the school website, if you really want to keep some educational activities going.

As a little extra, over the holidays, the teachers have created **'Taskmaster Challenges'** for you to try if you wish. Each day a video will be uploaded to Youtube and a link sent out with an explanation of a curious or quirky task for you to attempt. You can then send photos or videos to the home learning emails (to be responded to after half term) or share them on the school's Facebook or twitter. Of course none of this is compulsory, but feel free to have a look and enjoy yourselves if you fancy a giggle.

Thank you to all those of you who have taken the time to give us your feedback about home learning on the questionnaire last week. Your opinions are very welcomed and it is interesting to hear the range of points of view held by you all. After half term, we will be making a few tweaks to our provision. The main change is that we will be trying to keep to a set timetable across KS1 and 2 so that the tasks set will be similar for all children in the afternoons. Kestrels will continue with activities as before half term. We hope that by doing this, families with more than one child in school will be supported to organise outdoor and more practical activities on the same days.

<b>Monday</b> – Topic work - History / Geography	<b>Tuesday</b> – other topic Art/DT/Music/MFL/ RE	<b>Wednesday</b> – Forest School
<b>Thursday</b> - Science	<b>Friday</b> - PE	

As we have said from the outset, it is up to you how much you do in a day. You can manage your time to best suit your family. Keeping happy, active and healthy has to be the priority as always.

Finally, I would like to thank you all again for your continued support, the teachers and teaching assistants for supporting the children so brilliantly and of course the children for being awesome, resilient young people.

Have a safe and relaxing half term,

Mr Gilbert