

Blended learning at Eyam School

October 2020

Staff are so proud of all the children for the way they are striving to do their best in these unusual conditions. Although we recently sent home our 'catch up' letter (Y1-6) we are also mindful that, as we approach the winter months there could be disruption to learning through absences. We have so far been extremely lucky to have no absent staff and very few absent children. If you want clarity this is a quick guide for parents / carers about [absence from school](#)

We aim to keep the school open for as long as possible however there are several circumstances that might cause pupils or staff to be off school for a period of time. Whilst working in unfamiliar circumstances staff are also considering how to ensure there will be useful learning available. The combination of cleaning classrooms during the day and not having breaks or joined up whole school times such as playtimes, means that staff are on duty without any breaks so there is no time in the working day to prep work for doing at home. At times there will need to be an element of compromise and common sense about how we can provide suitable, ongoing learning tasks.

Individual children may be off school because:

1. wider family are told to self isolate for 14 days
2. they test positive with Covid 19

Pupils already have spellings on the class web page. All families have the topic web for the half term (on the [class web page](#)) which will enable parents to see at a glance the types of work we are focussing on.

Parents have access to [Hamilton Home Learning packs](#): which have a range of tasks for both literacy and maths for each day of the week. These will form the basis of our online provision if we are closed.

<https://www.hamilton-trust.org.uk/blog/learning-home-packs/>

Pupils would be sent some pieces of work in line with the class activities – this will be done during the week, after the lessons. Whilst we will endeavour to summarise, guidance will be brief because staff are fully committed to teaching in school. School is unable to fund any extra time for any staff, we simply do not have any budget for this.

Staff may be off because:

3. they are told to self isolate due to track and trace OR
4. the bubble may have to close due to an outbreak of Covid 19 within the bubble OR
5. the school may be closed for national or local lockdown.

The school will endeavour to keep that class open firstly using our experienced team of TAs to support learning in line with planning. We do not have any spare staff, Mrs Gilbertson is already a job share in Squirrels and is teaching small groups as part of the catch up programme and SEN support, so if a member of the teaching staff is out of action for more than 2 days the school would look to employ supply staff or close that bubble depending on whether supply can be sourced. As the pandemic infection rate increases there will be extra demand on supply agencies, in addition there is the question of employing supply staff who have been working in other schools.

We would expect staff to be able to collate some work relating to the current topic and send this into school for supply staff/TAs – of course this depends on the timing and whether staff are ill or contacted through track and trace in which case they will not be able to come into school to sort resources out.

If a bubble has to close:

- Staff will collate work suitable to the age and stage of the class and post it on the class webpage
- All pupils will revert to the Hamilton Learning Packs for maths and literacy
- Staff would contact each family to check the pupils can access the work.
- Our older pupils also have homework books to use
Hedgehog and Owl class children would be set work on Seesaw the online learning platform that we used during the Summer months. Please ensure you know how to log into this and let school know if you need a new password.

On return to school, staff will make adjustments to the plans for that half term to ensure there isn't duplication and that the work completed has a meaningful place within curriculum provision.

A new system of communication during bubble closure: Face to face on line provision.

After the success of our Summer seesaw online platform we plan to build on our use of technology. Initially Hedghogs and Owls will use Seesaw to suggest a range of activities.

We are learning new things everyday and staff are working hard to upskill themselves to run a daily teacher led discussion after the Hamilton activities have been tackled, should school be closed. Initially this will be for Squirrel Class only however if we are to have a longer formal lockdown all classes would be taking part. To this end we are planning to use Microsoft Teams as the software system. Over the next few weeks we will be taking part in a national training process to enable staff to understand how to use the system effectively, safely and part of this will involve a set of guidelines for parents. Once again we are doing our very best to prepare for continuous provision in the face of possible closure.

Other free online resources for families to make use of:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/this-terms-topics>

<https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-key-stage>

Finally, attached is a **list of several additional links** that can be used to create a varied day should you need alternative activities.

With every best wish for a healthy winter but a realistic approach to the projected challenge.

Oona Gilbertson and all the staff

Useful sources of information

Link to up to date [Covid information in Derbyshire](#)

Information about [being at school](#)

