



# Hillside School and Nursery

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

We would like to thank those of you who were able to complete our parent/carer home learning questionnaire. The senior leadership team have spent time reviewing each response and have shared summary findings with teaching staff for their information also. This newsletter will outline some of the key information collated but please also look out for our 'Online Learning from Home' document we will be emailing to you all in the coming days. This leaflet is a direct response to our home learning questionnaire highlighting common challenges our families are facing, with responses from us, as well as advice and support links.

Hillside teachers continue to be committed to planning relevant remote learning and teaching opportunities through Seesaw and we are so pleased to see high levels of engagement across all levels. From poems about this lockdown period, to songs and pictures celebrating our NHS, to children sharing their own personal best scores and wider achievements - we love seeing what our pupils are up to and continue to be very proud!

We want to thank our pupils and families for sharing their home learning and maintaining contact with their teacher during this time. It not only helps us engage with our children to progress learning but it also lets us know that our pupils are well. You will have all received my email last week outlining our approach to tracking engagement going forward. We will be looking for at least one upload from all our pupils to ensure we have some contact on a weekly basis. Ideally, we would like to hear from our pupils regularly throughout a given week. We continue to understand that all home circumstances are different but we will email/call our families we do not hear from in a period of seven days to make sure everything is alright and to ask if we can be of any more support. If you did not receive the email detailing our plans please let us know.

This period is undoubtedly difficult and could very well become more challenging for families the longer school closure and restrictions continue. Therefore, I would like to draw your attention to the new Aberdeenshire Educational Psychology website. A link can be found below and many parents/carers may find this useful as it provides good advice and resources for supporting young people through the Covid-19 period.

Please reach out to us if you need to and stay safe and well.

Kind regards,

Jordan Leslie  
Acting Head Teacher

## Aberdeenshire Educational Psychology Website

Please find below the link to the new Aberdeenshire Educational Psychology website, which provides advice and resources for supporting children and young people during the Covid-19 pandemic. It includes Covid-19 specific resources, as well as dedicated resources for wellbeing and for supporting children with additional support needs.

You can find the site at:  
<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/as/aberdeenshireeps/>

The EPS also run a dedicated phone line for parents/carers who would like to talk through any education or wellbeing concerns about a child or young person. This is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am to 3pm by calling 01779 403721. If parents would prefer a call back they can email [eps@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:eps@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) with their name and number.

## Hillside School Website

We have updated our school website to include a tab on the home page entitled 'School Closure'. Here we will collate all school closure newsletters, key links about how to use and engage with Seesaw and additional home learning resource links. This is a work in progress but will continue to receive regular updates.

The direct link to the school closure tab is:

<http://hillside.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/school-closure-information/>

## Seesaw Update

From this week our class teachers will begin to archive some of the home learning activities previously set, to limit the number of 'incomplete tasks' our pupils see at any one time. The activities archived will be the oldest ones and any responses children have already made to these tasks will be unaffected and remain on their journal log.





### Home Learning Parental Questionnaire

Please find a summary of our home learning questionnaire below

**96 feedback forms have been received so far. Thank you! Of the feedback received, responses are as follows:**

**How many activities do our pupils complete using Seesaw?**

- Most activities (includes those that try to complete all activities) - 84.6%
- Some activities - 14.4%
- Few/none - 1%

**What challenges have you found in engaging with home learning?**

- Pupil motivation- 64.9%
- Parent work commitments- 52.6%
- Sharing technology- 28.9%
- Access to the internet-5.2%

**What would help to increase the number of Seesaw activities that pupils complete?**

- 44.3% of parents/carers would like to see an example of how the task may look when complete
- 40% would like more web links to videos/activities
- 30% would like more paper-based tasks
- 27.1% would like more voice instructions from the teachers
- 25.7% would like more practical tasks
- 10% would like more Seesaw help videos
- 3% would like increased access to technology

**What do our families like about our approach to home learning?**

- *hearing the teachers voice/seeing teachers in uploaded videos*
- *the ability to choose when to do activities without set deadlines, allowing for flexibility*
- *the interface of seesaw*

- *receiving feedback*
- *Seesaw is easy to use and navigate*
- *some tasks are appropriately challenging, and some are just fun!*
- *the structure of having a clear timetable*
- *different mediums and choice for responding*

*We have read all responses received so far and will continue to reflect on these. We hope our additional home learning document (to be emailed in the coming days) will begin to answer some of the questions our families are raising and offer some further guidance. In addition, future newsletters will feature a 'You Said, We did' section which will highlight key responses to parental comments/suggestions.*

### Nursery

We would like to continue highlighting our Nursery Twitter page @HS\_Nursery - our practitioners are doing a wonderful job uploading daily challenges for our families to take part in, should they choose to do so. **Please note, you are not required to have a Twitter account to see our posts. Simply google twitter along with @Hs\_Nursery. You won't be able to like, comment or share without a personal account, but you will be able to see all the great learning opportunities our EYPs are promoting.**

As of this week, Miss Aiton, Mrs Gray, Mrs Forbes and Mrs Milne will upload daily to Twitter, as our Lead Practitioners (Mrs McDermott and Mrs Nelson) support Nursery-Primary transition tasks. On a Friday, we will ask our families to celebrate any wider achievements- just like we usually do on our wider achievements wall at the Nursery entrance! 😊

Today we begin Nursery-Primary 1 transition communication through a dedicated Seesaw account. All families signed up will receive their unique code, by email, by the end of the day. Once you receive this you can login using the Seesaw app or by following this link <https://web.seesaw.me/> There will be approximately 3 notifications/activities set each week, reflecting as best we can, key transition elements. We can't wait to start setting activities and engaging with our families through Seesaw!



### Primary 7

This week was planned to be the Primary 7 residential trip to Abernethy. We understand the disappointment felt when we this was inevitably cancelled. However, Mrs Lyndsey requested that we continue to make the most of this week in some way and, as a result, the Primary 7 Seesaw offering will look a little different this week. Instead of the arranged timetable of activities, Mrs Lindsay and Mr Smith want to welcome you to our virtual lodge! Look out for a series of uploads that have been well planned to reflect, where possible, some of the skills we would have worked on had we travelled to Abernethy. Most of the activities can be done independently but others may require the help of a known adult. Whilst I don't want to give anything away, there will be a vast array of activities to choose from. We hope to 'see' you this week for lots of fun ahead!

### Aberdeenshire EAL Service

The Aberdeenshire English as an Additional Language service has its own website which many families may find useful for supporting learning at home at this time. The website contains links to further resources, translated messages regarding learning at home and videos to support home learning.

You can access the site here:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/as/ealaberdeenshire/learning-at-home/>

### Additional Home Learning Resources

#### Twinkl

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/home-learning-hub>

Twinkl is currently allowing parents/carers to access many of their resources for free. What may be of particular interest to our families is their **Home Learning Hub**.

*Each day you'll find a new set of daily activities to get involved with. Qualified Twinkl teachers will provide book readings, live lessons, positive news updates and more. We'll be bringing you activities from our partners too, to help fill your days and offer some much-needed variety. Activities will be listed the day before - giving you enough time to get prepped and set up for the next day's learning.*

(Twinkl, May 2020)

#### **Road Safety Scotland**

<https://roadsafety.scot/ziggy-toolkit/>

*Road Safety Scotland's free 'Go Safe with Ziggy!' road safety learning resource helps equip young children with skills, knowledge and attitudes that will help them stay safe now, and in later life.*

*To support families at home during this difficult time, a toolkit has been put together to signpost exciting online activities for use at home.*

*The toolkit also has some useful social media information to help spread the Ziggy messages!*

(Road Safety Scotland, May 2020)

In addition, Road Safety Scotland have produced a new Ziggy Adventure book to the Ziggy Collection - 'Ziggy's Rainbow Walk'. As a lot of families are cycling during their exercise periods they have also produced a competition to draw and colour a cycling helmet. The book and toolkit have good explanations about social distancing and the need to keep safe when out walking.

