



# Hillside School and Nursery

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I want to start by thanking you all for your patience and support as we have planned for, and then implemented, a home learning approach to Hillside- primarily with the use of Seesaw.

This new way of life is certainly a learning curve for us all and continues to bring many challenges- including home learning. The aim is to provide some continuity for our children and our approach seeks to consolidate knowledge and skills taught in school in a manageable way for our families and for our teachers. One size will not fit all, and Seesaw will not replace class-based teaching, but we are grateful for the hard work displayed by our parents, carers and pupils.

This newsletter features a link to our parental questionnaire about home learning and we would appreciate any responses for us to consider. In the meantime, I want to thank too, our dedicated team of staff who continue to plan, upload and respond to learning activities daily as we think creatively in a digital space.

As a school we are receiving a lot of suggestions for additional home learning links, free resources etc. In addition to using Twitter, we will also spotlight some of these in each newsletter we send.

During the school closure period, our intention is to keep you up to date as much as is possible. We will now issue a newsletter fortnightly - this being the second of the term.

As always, please stay safe and well and reach out to us at [Hillside.Sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:Hillside.Sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) (01224 472850) should you need to talk to us.

Kind regards,

Jordan Leslie  
Acting Head Teacher

## Wonderful News!



**We are absolutely delighted to announce that Miss Munro has welcomed a beautiful baby girl. Both mum and baby are doing well, and we are in no doubt that the Hillside School community will join us in wishing them all the health and happiness in the world. Congratulations Miss Munro - we cannot wait to see you both when the time is right.**

**In equally fantastic news, prior to the Easter holidays Mr Smith became a father, welcoming an adorable baby girl. Mr Smith's Primary 6/7 class have been lucky enough to see a picture too via their Seesaw accounts! We are all so happy for you and your family Mr Smith. We send you our very best wishes.**



## The Hillside Hub

The Hillside Hub continues to run smoothly thanks to the incredible hard work of Pupil Support Assistants, Early Years Practitioners, Out of School Care, Teachers and members of Senior Leadership Teams from across the Portlethen cluster and Aberdeenshire. This includes Hillside School staff - thank you!

The Hillside Hub is operational up to 7 days a week. Category 1-3 key workers in need of childcare should apply to the central team using the link emailed to all Hillside School and Nursery parents/carers.

## Reports

All Primary 1-7 progress reports were posted by second class post last Wednesday. Understandably, some delivery services are taking a little longer currently but please feel free to contact the school if you have not received your child(ren)'s school report by the end of the week.





### Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May

**Just a reminder to all that Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May is a holiday. Please be aware that there will be no learning and teaching uploads to class Seesaw accounts on this day.**

#### Home Learning (incl. questionnaire)

Our plan is to continue with the upload schedule currently in place on Seesaw. The upload schedule is displayed once again (overleaf) as a reminder.

With that said, as families, please be kind to yourselves. Wellbeing is most important during these unusual times and whilst we truly value your support as parents and carers to aid your child(ren)'s learning, we know how difficult home learning can be. Trying to juggle school set tasks, work, caring for others and general life is hard. Whilst we as a school want to support engaging pupils in learning, learning takes many, many forms including practical and organisational skills, talking, listening, sharing and playing.

You will know what is right for your families, We don't want our learning provision to cause stress or upset. Pulling back on the amount of tasks and choosing what is manageable will no doubt be necessary. We want to continue supporting our families where we can. Please get in touch if you need to.

**We have created the following questionnaire to gather some initial thoughts on home learning engagement. You can access this by clicking on this link:**

**<https://forms.gle/6adXkJGnTAV3K2YF9>**

This week the Senior Leadership Team will also be linked to Seesaw accounts. Due to account limits etc. we cannot all be a part of every class, so each member is assigned to specific classes as follows:

- Primary 1 - Mrs Grieve
- Primary 2-3 - Mrs Petrie
- Primary 4-5 - Mrs Bain
- Primary 6-7 - Mr Leslie

### Primary 7 Transition

Thank you to the Primary 7 pupils who submitted questions to the Portlethen Academy Senior Leadership Team through their Seesaw accounts. These have been collated and passed on. We look forward to seeing the responses from the Academy later this term. Mr Smith, Mrs Lindsay and Mr Leslie also joined an online transition meeting earlier this week with the rest of the cluster - we will hopefully be back in touch soon with more information.

#### Nursery @HS\_Nursery

The Nursery Twitter has been a great success so far, with almost 100 followers already, and more importantly, lots of messages, updates and engagement from our families and Early Years Practitioners. Each day a different practitioner uploads an optional task for you try if you wish, supporting fundamental developmental skills. We have loved seeing the variety of activities on offer and the responses!

We will be in touch directly over the next fortnight with how online transition suggestions will be delivered to our pre school pupils.

#### Twitter

Miss Gibb and Mrs Morbey are continuing to upload optional weekly Twitter clips/challenges for our families. Their creativity and efforts are much appreciated, and we love seeing the responses!

- Tuesday - Spanish (Mrs Morbey)
- Thursday - Music (Miss Gibb)

#### Optional Art Activity

Reminder - Mrs Whittington has also set a whole school creative challenge (optional and attached again for your reference). This would be a great way to celebrate Hillside when we eventually come back together.



## Seesaw Upload Schedule

\*Please be aware that Seesaw can be accessed via the Seesaw app or through any computer using the web address:

<https://web.seesaw.me/>

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Monday    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spelling</li> <li>• Grammar</li> <li>• Numeracy</li> <li>• Topic</li> </ul>                 |
| Tuesday   | <p>Mr MacGregor (PE teacher) will upload a PE challenge</p> <p>*Class teachers aim to respond to uploads</p>                         |
| Wednesday | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing</li> <li>• Mental Maths</li> <li>• Other curricular area</li> </ul>                 |
| Thursday  | <p>Miss Morrison (Health and RME teacher) will upload a specific task/challenge</p> <p>*Class teachers aim to respond to uploads</p> |
| Friday    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topical Maths</li> <li>• Reading</li> <li>• Other curricular area</li> </ul>                |

## Other Resources

Looking for additional home learning opportunities?

First Bus have created a downloadable education pack at the following link:

[https://www.firstgroup.com/uploads/node\\_images/First%20Bus%20Digital%20Pack.pdf](https://www.firstgroup.com/uploads/node_images/First%20Bus%20Digital%20Pack.pdf)

The pack aims to educate pupils on the benefits of using public transport, through a series of engaging, educational tasks. Each page has been created specifically around the core educational framework of the curriculum for excellence; literacy, numeracy, creativity and problem solving. (Andrew Jarvis, Managing Director, First Bus).

