



HALES VALLEY TRUST

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Dear Parents & Carers

As we reach the end of this half term I want to thank you for the support you have shown our schools during such a challenging time. I know that the vast majority of you are coping with the demands of home learning – and that many of you are having to juggle this whilst also working yourselves. We recognise that is very demanding and tiring and we are very grateful for everything you are doing to help your child to continue to learn.

The schools in our Trust have been working very hard trying to provide you and your children with an appropriate remote education offer. We have had to adhere to the expectations of the Department for Education whilst also thinking about how the remote learning feels for our children and our families. The staff have had to radically change the way they teach in a short space of time and I am grateful for all their hard work and enthusiasm. Many of them are coping with the demands of teaching both in school whilst also providing remote learning. They have responded magnificently to the challenge.

We have been pleased that we have been able to offer families support with devices to be able to access all the online learning. If you are still experiencing difficulties in this area then please do contact your school – they will be able to help you.

Our schools have worked hard trying to ensure that they give you the support and guidance you need to meet the demands of online learning – including accessing Google Classroom and uploading work. We have loved seeing the children engaged in their learning at home and it is very encouraging when you share photos and comments of all the lovely things you are doing with your children. We recognise that being in front of a screen is not always the best for our children and it is important that they get a break from this and are engaged with practical learning and activities such as PE and art. Please do not worry if your child is not able to complete all the work or needs a break from their device – we understand and are happy for you to do what you think is best for your child. Again, if you are experiencing difficulties then please do contact school – we are here to help you.

I want to thank the Headteachers of the Trust for their constant and steady leadership during these demanding times. They work very hard and are well supported by senior leaders. When you give them positive feedback this lifts both them and the whole school staff! Whilst we love to receive positive feedback we are also happy for you tell us when things aren't quite right too – we want to work with you to make things the best that they can be.

I would like to wish you all a well-deserved half term holiday. I know that we can't go far or do very much – but let's hope the weather is kind so at least we can get outside for a walk!

With very best wishes

Jeannette Mackinney
CEO
Hales Halley Trust