



Scoil yn Jubilee Newsletter

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Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of all the Staff and Governors at Scoil yn Jubilee, I hope that you and your family are all well. We miss you all and you are never far from our thoughts.

I would like to thank each and every one of you for following IOM Government advice and for trusting that we are making the right decisions for you, your child/ren and our staff.

I would also like to reiterate some information and guidance following recent updates in this ever-changing landscape.

Government Advice

Stay safe and continue to stay at home as much as possible:

- avoid public gatherings with people who are not part of your household
- when you go to public spaces keep your distance from others
- keep washing your hands
- strict social distancing guidelines must be observed at all times

School Closure

We have had between 2 and 15 children attending school at the Henry Bloom Noble hub over the past 4 weeks which reflects the government guidance that school is only open to vulnerable children and those of key workers, where there is no alternative childcare available. The advice remains that even if you are a key worker, you should try to organise childcare away from school to help stop the spread of the virus.

Free School Meals

Department of Education, Sport and Culture will continue to send vouchers every two weeks through Shoprite, for you to buy food for your child/ren.

Our Expectations for Learning at Home

Although we will continue to upload ideas to our ItsLearning pages and to our website, there are no expectations from school about what you do or don't do.

These are very unusual and unprecedented times.

Teachers are going to be continually providing you with work throughout this time on your class ItsLearning page, so please check it out regularly. If you have any queries please use the email provided above. Staff are now on a timetabled rota in school, providing care and support for key worker staff, so they will reply as soon as possible.

If you want to send pictures or responses to work to your child's teacher please feel free to do so on ItsLearning.



Please remember:

- Our children might be scared at the moment. They see and hear a lot, even when we think they don't.
- Their routines and structures are disrupted. They may feel tension and anxiety from the adults around them. It is a completely new situation for us all.
- Children may expect the weeks ahead to feel like the summer holidays; we know that they will feel very different.
- They may react to all this by changing their behaviours and showing behaviours you have never seen from them before. This might be difficult for you and your family but it is natural and to be expected.
- Your child just needs these feelings to be acknowledged and to be reassured that you understand that life is just that bit less predictable at the moment.

Under these circumstances, home learning may well add to this anxiety and stress – for them and for you. In that case, leave it. Your children need to be reassured, comforted, loved and feel secure more than they need to be learning.

So, please try not to fall out about the learning ideas we have shared. Instead, cuddle on the sofa and watch a film. Share a book and talk about it. Bake and cook together. Paint pictures, create and make. Play board games. Do science experiments. Travel the world via Google Maps. Go on virtual tours of museums, art galleries, and zoos. Look at old photos and tell stories about family members, some of whom your children may never have met. Write letters to those you cannot visit at the moment. Keep a diary.

However, for some children, a learning routine may be exactly what they need. They might thrive on structure and routine. They might be bored or anxious about not learning. They might be desperate to feel connected to their classmates or teachers. They might love learning online and fly through tasks.

Your child might be both of these types of children: most children are! Follow their lead and use your gut instinct. You won't go far wrong. Don't worry about their academic progress. All of the above will help them. We would like to reassure you that the priority for us is to come through this period with our well-being and mental health in a good place. This is far more important to us than anything else, because we know that when we return to school we can pick up learning with the children if they are in a good place and ready to learn. We would like you to help us make that happen.

Every child is in the same boat at the moment. When we get back to school, after celebrating being back together again, we will pick up from where we left off and meet your child's needs like we always do. That's our job.

So, use the learning resources – or don't. Or anything in between. Try to have fun spending time together. Your child's emotional and mental wellbeing – and yours – is far more important than anything else. How they felt during this time will stay with them for the rest of their lives, far longer than any worksheet or online learning task.

Keeping in touch

Please stay in touch with us. Feel free to email school administrators with photos or descriptions of what you've been up to or to ask any questions you may have. I will be in touch with further updates as we receive them. In the meantime, I would like to take this opportunity to 'Thank You' for your continued support.

