



Hillcrest School
East View Avenue, East Farm
Cramlington, NE23 1DY
Tel 01670 713632

Email: Admin@hillcrest.northumberland.sch.uk

Mrs A Mead, Head Teacher

19.1.21

Dear Families

I wanted to get in touch with you all today to say a huge thank you from all of the staff at Hillcrest for supporting us at this difficult time. Whilst government guidance stipulates that we should be open for all, we know at this time parents/carers feel it is not safe to do this. A number of our students are not in school through choice as we operate within the pandemic and the current restrictions. We have supported all parents/carers with their choice of keeping their child at home and have extended our remote learning provision to ensure that we continue to work with our students. We hope that current lock down measures in place are effective, so that we can increase the amount of young people we have in school very soon.

As a school we are saddened by the fact that we are once again in this position and we would like to reassure you all that the health and well-being of our young people is our priority which is why we are working incredibly hard to keep connected whilst not physically together. From the contact that we have had with parents/carers it is evident that most of you understand the challenges we face in the current climate.

To ensure that our young people get the best educational offer remotely we are no longer just delivering paper based work packs. We have developed our offer even further for those who are working from home and are:

- Calling families and children daily to check in and see if there is any support we can give;
- Calling families with social care involvement on a weekly basis and liaising with social workers to update (by the Designated Safeguarding Leads in School);
- Providing weekly paper based work packs that are dropped off by a member of the Hillcrest staff team;
- Uploading daily work onto Seesaw for those families and children who are comfortable with this online and marking work on Seesaw;
- Scheduling 'Google Meets' to support our young people further (launched this week). This could be a taught session, games session, mental health and well-being session. Last week saw the launch of our YouTube channel and the link is available on our website. So far, we only have one video which features our Therapy Dog Morag. We hope to add to this;
- Providing as many laptops as we have been able to get from the Government to support students without IT equipment;
- Updating website with more resources and up to date information;

- Offering technical support to get families started online and for Google Meets;
- Using our Website to list all information related to home learning.

We have excellent links with the Cramlington Foodbank and are able to refer families in, which we have already done so for some. Do not hesitate to get in touch with us, if you require additional support.

I also want to thank the fabulous Hillcrest staff who have had to change the way they work with no notice and who are juggling online and class based teaching.

Thank you for your continued support as we try to do the safest thing for our community. We will resume our usual offer as soon as we possibly can.

Yours sincerely



A Mead
Head Teacher