

HANOVER PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Jack Sloan



5th February 2021

Dear parents and carers

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your support for your children's learning during this difficult lockdown period. As a parent myself, I know first-hand how hard remote learning can be for the whole family, and I wanted to say well done to you for all your juggling and determination. We all miss having our whole community at school, and can't wait to get back to normal soon. While we don't yet know when this will be, we are determined to do the best job possible in the meantime.

We received 100 responses from families to our survey about our remote learning provision, and also 72 responses from children. Having looked carefully at the feedback, we want to tell you about the themes that came up. I have met with the Senior Leadership Team and with all teachers this week to discuss what we are planning to do to address the points raised.

Some context: we currently have over 110 children attending school (more than a third of the total on roll). As we are keeping groups to a maximum of 15 pupils to minimise infection risks, most of our staff are working in school. We are having to balance offering high-quality remote learning with providing day-to-day schooling in the building, which is challenging.

While we cannot respond to every suggestion made in the surveys, these [slides](#) illustrate the key themes that emerged. The slides include data and quotations that represent the views of a number of families. We hope that these help you understand the varied needs of the whole school community.

So. What are we going to do differently?

You told us...	We are going to...	This will start...
That children wanted more contact with their teachers, and with each other.	Double the number of "MiniMeets" to two per week. Encourage children to do work together online (see the end of this letter).	Next week (week beginning 8th February); you will be notified of new times and days today.
That you wanted to know how long tasks were designed to take.	Each lesson will now include an estimate of how long it should take to complete in the description. Please let us know if our estimates are way out!	Next week (week beginning 8th February).
That you want to see more science (particularly practical science).	Add an additional science challenge each week across the school. This will focus on applying scientific knowledge. Lots of animal-focused science	Week beginning 22 February (after half term). Science Week (week beginning 5th

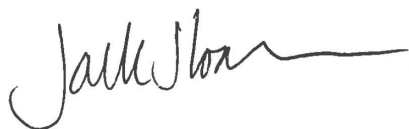
	<p>planned for National Science Week - including live workshops, exclusive interviews and live lambing!</p> <p>Additional live science workshops for the Upper School through the Royal Institute</p> <p>Occasional science-focussed MiniMeets and reading lessons being science-focussed.</p>	<p>March).</p> <p>Dates to be confirmed.</p> <p>Week beginning 22 February (after half term).</p>
<p>That it motivated your children to see the work of their peers.</p>	<p>Regularly share work from each class in the "Google Stream" so that you and your children can get a sense of what others are producing. Children will also now have the facility to comment and celebrate the work of their peers on these posts.</p> <p>Make use of tools such as "FlipGrid" and "Jamboard" so that children can safely share their views and answers with one another.</p>	<p>Next week (week beginning 8th February).</p> <p>We are currently trialing these tools and will roll them out as soon as possible.</p>
<p>That some of you were concerned about children being in front of a screen for too long</p>	<p>We continue to encourage children to produce work on paper if this works for families, uploading a photo or scan of the work to Google Classroom. Some tasks will continue to need to be completed on a device, but our strategy of using short videos rather than lengthy "live" sessions is partly about reducing screen time.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>That the phonics videos used in the lower school are of high quality, but are not very engaging.</p>	<p>We are looking to change the model for phonics teaching, using more interactive resources and shorter videos where possible</p>	<p>As soon as possible after half term.</p>
<p>That the White Rose maths lessons were good, but that children were craving more problem-solving, investigations and maths games.</p>	<p>New MiniMeet will have a maths focus that will involve games and problem solving.</p> <p>Also looking at the broader planning and delivery of maths lessons across the week to think about how we might introduce more open-ended tasks and problem solving.</p>	<p>New MiniMeet starting next week.</p> <p>Curriculum offer for maths being considered for after half term.</p>

One of the most moving things we saw in the feedback was that some children are feeling lonely and isolated. Lockdown regulations make it difficult for children to meet up with their friends safely in person. We hope that doubling the number of MiniMeets each week will help children to feel more connected to their peers and to school, and we would also encourage you to consider some of these ideas to help your child stay connected with their friends:

- Encourage your child to call a friend each day.
- Use Facetime, or WhatsApp video calls, so that children can do their Google Classroom assignments together - like having a learning partner. We would welcome work submitted that has been done by children in pairs and know that when children discuss their learning, this tends to improve the quality of the work they produce.

We hope that these improvements will further enhance your children's learning experience at this time. As ever, we are here to support both your children and yourselves - please do not hesitate to contact us if you need advice.

With best wishes,



Jack Sloan
Headteacher



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