



HUNTER HALL

PREPARATORY & PRE-SCHOOL

Newsletter Number 1
Spring Term, 8th January 2021



Dear Parents,

Welcome 'back' and Happy New Year to everyone, despite it being a tumultuous start to the year for schools. We are up and running with block 1 of our home learning online provision and the children have once again risen to the new challenges and opportunities of a different way of learning. Well done also, if I may say so, to all you parents and helpers out there in supporting your children to access the teaching resources etc – you are doing a sterling job and we are here to help in any way we can. Upper School United is a new introduction to our TEAMS programme, and it felt good to sing and boogie along with the children as Mrs Wrightson directed us yesterday. Great for well-being.

With that in mind please, find below a link to some resources that you may want to peruse if you would like to do a little more on the wellbeing side of things with your children – it may even help your own personal well-being. Those of you who have the misfortune (!) of watching my assemblies will know I am often accompanied online by 'Harold' the Giraffe. He is a character the children know well, and he often has to deal with lots of things. Harold is part of a PSHE resource (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) that we subscribe to in school – it's wonderful, and we all enjoy using it in our lessons. They have produced additional resources for parents to use at home with their children which complement the work we do in school.

Our theme for this term is 'Keeping Ourselves Safe' and if you click on the link below (or paste it into your browser if it does not work directly) it will lead you to some super resources to use which are very easily laid out for 3 – 5 years, 5 – 7 years, 7 – 9 years and 9 – 11 years. Most can be done without the use of a printer and many are discussion items. They also include links for you as parents as to how to keep your children safe online. It is well worth a look. www.coramlifeeducation.org.uk/scarf/home-learning-unit-3-Keeping-Myself-Safe-activities-during-self-isolation

With mindfulness never far from any of our thoughts these days, Mrs Wilson is kindly running a mindful colouring session live on TEAMS from 3.30 until 4.30pm every Thursday for anyone in Upper School who would like to drop in from next week. This is designed as a quiet, camaraderie time, with peaceful music to

run alongside the activity. Children will need to provide their own colouring pads and pencils and it may help some of our children who just want to 'be there' at the quiet end of the day. It certainly is a lovely peaceful session to be part of when it runs in school and I know has been of particular benefit to some children.

We are open for pre-school and our key worker children, although we have all seen the news and the increasingly worrying statistics. The message is very much if you can stay at home, then do so, whilst they try to deal with this very virulent strain of the virus. Therefore, as a key worker, if you feel you can accommodate your children at home then please do. In school, we have our key worker team up and running, having put many safety regulations in place to keep us as adults as safe as possible, whilst at the same time being a reassuring presence for the children in these testing of times. Children are working as normal in school, having the same experience as the children have at home (except those in school are wearing their uniforms 😊) and the computers are working overtime. We have just invested in further cameras for our computers to allow for further interaction.

Sedbergh school are planning ahead and are advertising their Easter and Summer courses. If you are interested in your child attending, please check their website, but also contact Mrs Colbear as there is a special code for you to enter as a Hunter Hall contact which will provide a 10% discount.

This week we have also been tested with snow! Hunter Hall looks especially beautiful in the snow (although I know it is anything but beautiful getting up and down our hill!), but thought I would finish the week with a few snow pictures for you to enjoy.

I can hardly believe we are only 3 days in. Stay safe and calm everyone, we miss you all, but are there in spirit.

Mrs D Vinsome



IT Hack – use your XBOX or PS4 to access Teams!

Mrs Wrightson tried this the other evening with Mrs Vinsome and it worked! Mrs Wrightson mentioned they also managed it just using the games handset instead of a keyboard.

Xbox

- Plug a keyboard into the Xbox USB slot.
- Go into my games and apps.
- Find Microsoft Edge and select.
- Type in: Office365 and log in as you would in college.
- You can then access your work and use key packages, including Teams, Word, Excel, PowerPoint & your emails.
- To move around, use your controller or plug in a mouse.

PlayStation

- Identify the PlayStation internet browser icon (it is WWW with dots around it).
- Press the PlayStation logo on the controller.
- Go to the library and find options for games and applications.
- Go into applications and you will find the internet browser.
- Type Office365 into the browser and log in as you would in college.
- You can then access your work and use key packages, including Teams, Word, Excel, PowerPoint & your emails.
- To move around, use your controller or plug in a mouse.