



Hillstone News

Immediate Financial Support for Families

There is a pot of money available to provide emergency food and fuel assistance for families. This support is significant, £50 for food and £50 for fuel. Surprisingly, by the end of January only 100 grant application had been made. To access this help, please click on the link below and it will identify the correct contact person for your school's locality. These people will make the applications on your behalf and get the support to the identified family. In the Hodge Hill Ward, the contact is Alice Bath.

EarlyHelp-Hodgehill@family-action.org.uk

The grant is available through a charity called Family Action. They offer a wide range of services as well as financial help. I know that many of you are struggling not only financially, but with anxiety and feeling overwhelmed by the situation. You may find their counselling services helpful. I note from their website that they are also looking for volunteers and some of you may be interested in that role.

Family Action transforms lives by providing practical, emotional and financial support to those who are experiencing poverty, disadvantage and social isolation across the country. They work with over 60,000 families through over 160 community-based services. Thousands more are supported with financial assistance through education and welfare grants programmes.

<https://www.family-action.org.uk/>

Clubs

I loved delivering the ingredients recently for Ms Hodgkinson's Cake club. Families were very enthusiastic about their creations. Ms Aluriya is starting a new club after half term called Calm Club. This will be a mix of mindfulness and creative activities.



Virtual School

It is expected that all children access remote learning every day for about 3 - 4 hours. This will ensure children do not fall behind in their learning but just as importantly, it keeps children in the right mind-set for learning, gives them a routine and helps prevent poor behaviour. We have been much praised for our virtual school but I know a few families are still struggling. Either because of technology or children not wanting to access it. If you are having problems because of technology we can provide digital devices, BT vouchers, dongles and advice. If siblings are sharing, then please contact us and we can provide an additional laptop for them to borrow so that children can have one each in order to do their work. If the issue is about children not wanting to do their work then contact the teachers we can provide advice, personalised plans where necessary, and talk to the children to encourage them. If you need another book to do their work in then contact the office and we will arrange to get them sent out. Encourage them to do their best work in these - I am looking forward to seeing them when they come back to school.



Children's University have a number of challenges for you to try over half term. Don't forget to send your evidence in to gain a credit for you Children's University dashboard.

<https://childrensuniversity.co.uk/media/1343/half-term-club-15th-feb.pdf>

SAFE TO NET

I know I sound like a broken record but I do worry so much about our children and how they use social media without realising the consequences of some of the messages that they post. I have been recommended an innovative new British App called SafeToNet. It is pioneering technology that educates children "in-the-moment" as they use their device. It is a safeguarding assistant that helps them become responsible and safe digital citizens. Its power lies in a smart keyboard that detects risks in real-time. It steers children away from trouble by filtering harmful outgoing messages before they can be sent and any damage can be done.

They have a free trial available.

https://safetonet.com/gclid=EAlaIQobChMlgSG8ZDu7glVhO3tCh0siAdJEAYASAAEgLAMvD_BwE





HILLSTONE STARS

Each week, teachers will choose a Hillstone star from Lockdown School and one from Virtual School. They will all be celebrated on the Hillstone Stars tab on our website. Here are last week's outstanding pupils.

Alexander Cooks

Corey Hill

Sophie-Karoline Palika

Ataya Harborne

Lillie-Mai Bell

Maddison Caldicott

Leoni Wagstaffe

Millie Duncan

Phoebe Kirk

Lacey Reeves

Ammelia Lea

Riley Ward

Jake Bullock

