24 April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

**Coronavirus Update**

**School Closure**

Whilst there has been speculation in the media regarding potential reopening of schools the Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson, confirmed on 19th April that the **current arrangements would remain in place and that no date has been set for these to change.** The most recent guidance for parents/carers which includes updated information about keeping children safe on-line can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Please note that as we are now in the Summer Term so if we do re-open then the students were originally due to return in summer uniform. **You will have notice of any re-opening date so please do not worry about having to source uniform whilst we are in lockdown**.

If you would like your child to attend school can you please inform Nichola Peaker via her email on [**npr@hurworth.swiftacademies.org.uk**](mailto:npr@hurworth.swiftacademies.org.uk) or via **telephone/text on 01325 720424 (school hours)/07809211562 (out of school hours**). In your message please state your child’s name and year group. Please note that the usual school transport routes are being cancelled, so if this is your child’s usual mode of transport for attending school then you will also need to inform us of this in your message so that alternative transport arrangements can be made. **If you wish your child to attend school** please ensure that you have informed me by **no later than 3.30 pm on the previous day if your child is attending school the next day** e.g. Monday for a Tuesday, Tuesday for a Wednesday etc.

**Please note that for safeguarding reasons we must be aware of the children that we are expecting to attend the school on a daily basis; therefore, if you have informed us that your child will be attending school we will treat their attendance as we would if they were attending school on a “normal school day”, therefore they will be subject to a morning and afternoon registration and we will call you if your child is absent as we would on a “normal school day”. We will be operating normal school rules during your child’s time in school however they will not be expected to wear their school uniform. The school canteen is also being staffed during the period of closure so food will be available for your child however please be aware that this will be limited to cold food only.**

**Year 8 School Work**

As outlined to you in our letter dated 20th March the school is providing work for students in Years 7 to 10 via Microsoft Teams which can be accessed via their school e-mail account. If your child is experiencing technical difficulties with accessing their account then please contact [enquires@hurworthschool.org.uk](mailto:enquires@hurworthschool.org.uk) and we will endeavour to assist you where we can. Where you have let us know that your child does not have access to a computer we have posted paper copies of work to you.

**Students were** **all allocated more work to complete at the start of this week and are doing so on a fortnightly basis. Please note that the expectation is that students will complete around 3 hours of work a day. We fully understand and empathise with the difficult situation that everyone finds themselves in at the moment and appreciate that not every child will be able to do this – the deadlines which have been set for work are all flexible and the overriding message to all students is just to do what they can. We are setting more tasks than we think they will need so that those students who work more quickly or want to complete additional tasks have things which they can move on to – please reassure your child that they are not ‘behind’ if they don’t complete everything.**

An overview of the work which has been set this week is below for your information, the next ‘batch’ of work will be set on 4th May:

**Year 8**

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| **Subject** | **Task** | **Deadline** |
| Art | *The Art projects which were set when we closed should take 8 weeks in total to complete*  **Marine life booklet** – a range of tasks including artist research, drawing, facts about fish, pattern and modelling.  **Art Experimentation booklet** – a range of mark making activities exploring different materials, key vocab, themes and artists.  **Independent Learning project** – tasks include research a famous movement in Art, an artist copy and a 30 day drawing challenge. | 26th May |
| Computing | **The Vault**  Tasks 1, 2 and 3 | 1st May |
| D&T | *The D&T booklet should take 5 weeks to complete*  Home study booklet- Various D&T Related interleaving, retrieval and new knowledge tasks based around materials, tools, equipment and processes, Product analysis and product development  Optional Extension activity- PIXL Knowledge CAD CAM IT worksheet with various questions | 22nd May |
| English | **Myths**  Task 1: Learn the spellings and meanings of set key vocabulary.  Task 2: Research Task: Research Myths and Mythology.  Task 3: Complete the table on Myths.  Task 4: Read the story ‘Thugine and the Wandering Boys’. Highlight and label any features of a myth and decipher if this story can be classed as a myth. | 1st May |
| Geography (Sets 1-4) | *Weeks 1 and 2 of a 4 week project*  **Fluvial processes & features**  Key words  Mind map / revision clock  Revision guide  Seneca tasks | 15th May |
| History (Sets 1-4) | **Weapons of World War 1**  Apply understanding of the key features of World War 1 weapons and how they contributed to the end of the war. | 1st May |
| Literacy (Set 5) | * Reading book (they took 2 home) and AR quizzes * 'Literacy Support' booklet (given three difficulty levels)- Recap of grammar points * Spelling patterns- activity booklets x5 * 'Reading and Reasoning' booklet- short reading comprehensions * 'Living Maths' booklet- literacy and maths in context- 2 levels of difficulty * IDL Online Literacy programme * Touch Typing- BBC Dance Mat * Handwriting practice for some (paper provided) | Daily practise – no set number of pages students can chose |
| Literacy – Humanities (Set 5) | **English Civil War**  Part 1  Looking at chronology in general and keywords- Timeline, chronology, anachronism  -4 worksheets with activities to explain and practice these terms  -Learn to read these keywords: Year  Decade  Century  Millennium  Past  Present  Future  Chronology  Anachronism  Part 2  -Read 'Problems with Charles I's reign'.  -Write a newspaper article (using the template) as an English person upset with how Charles was running the country- particularly his arrogance and his belief in the 'Divine Right of Kings'  -Learn to read these keywords:  England  Scotland  United Kingdom  Divine Right of Kings  Taxes | Part 1 24th April  Part 2 1st May |
| Maths | Weekly MyMaths tasks for key knowledge  End of Unit assessments once a full topic has been completed | Weekly deadlines |
| Music | *This project will take several weeks to complete*  **Elements of Music and Instruments of the Orchestra**  - Produce your own knowledge organiser or revision poster on the elements (pitch, tempo, dynamics, duration, texture, tonality)  - Produce your own knowledge organiser or revision poster on the instruments (break into families -strings, brass, woodwind, percussion).  - Create a booklet with the information of the elements and another about the instruments to make it suitable for a child at primary school (around Year 4)  - Create a variety worksheets and quizzes (with answers) on both the elements of music and the instruments | 2 tasks fully complete by 22nd May |
| PE | *This piece of work should take 4 weeks to complete*  Functions of the Skeletal System ILT | 15th May |
| RS (Sets 1-4) | *This project should take 5 weeks to complete*  **Marriage**   * Booklet is divided into 9 sections. * The weekly quiz is set on Teams. | 2 sections of the booklet and 1 quiz per week, final deadline 20th May |
| Science | **Metals**  Forms quizzes and longer answer question | 1st May |
| Spanish | Sets 1-3   1. Produce Knowledge Organisers on Present tense, Preterite, Reflexive verbs and Future tense by using online grammar reference points and tutorials. 2. Revise Spanish phonics and produce a Knowledge Organiser. 3. Youtube Spanish videos. 4. Vocabulary practice on Memrise.   Sets 4 and 5   1. Cultural research task. 2. Youtube Spanish video tasks. 3. Vocabulary practice using Memrise or list on Teams. | 4th May |

If your child has a subject specific query then please contact the teacher concerned via their school email address.

Additional resources which may be of use to parents/carers for home education can be found at:

Bitesize <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

Government funded Oak Academy resources <https://www.thenational.academy/online-classroom>

A national helpine to support parents/carers called ‘StarLine’ is due to be launched today in addition to the resources above – as soon as we have details of this we will pass them on to you.

**Please be reassured we have no expectation that you will be ‘teaching’ your children. As you have been doing throughout the closure so far, please just continue to support them however you are able to and do whatever is best for your child.**

**We are Hurworth**

As part of our ongoing support for students during the school closure they are being sent a weekly newsletter **direct to their school emails every Friday morning**. The newsletter is a way to pass on any school information they need to know, share top tips for how to cope with being at home and to help students who don’t have access to social media etc to keep in touch with each other. Should you wish to access the document it can be found under the ‘Students’ tab on the school website.

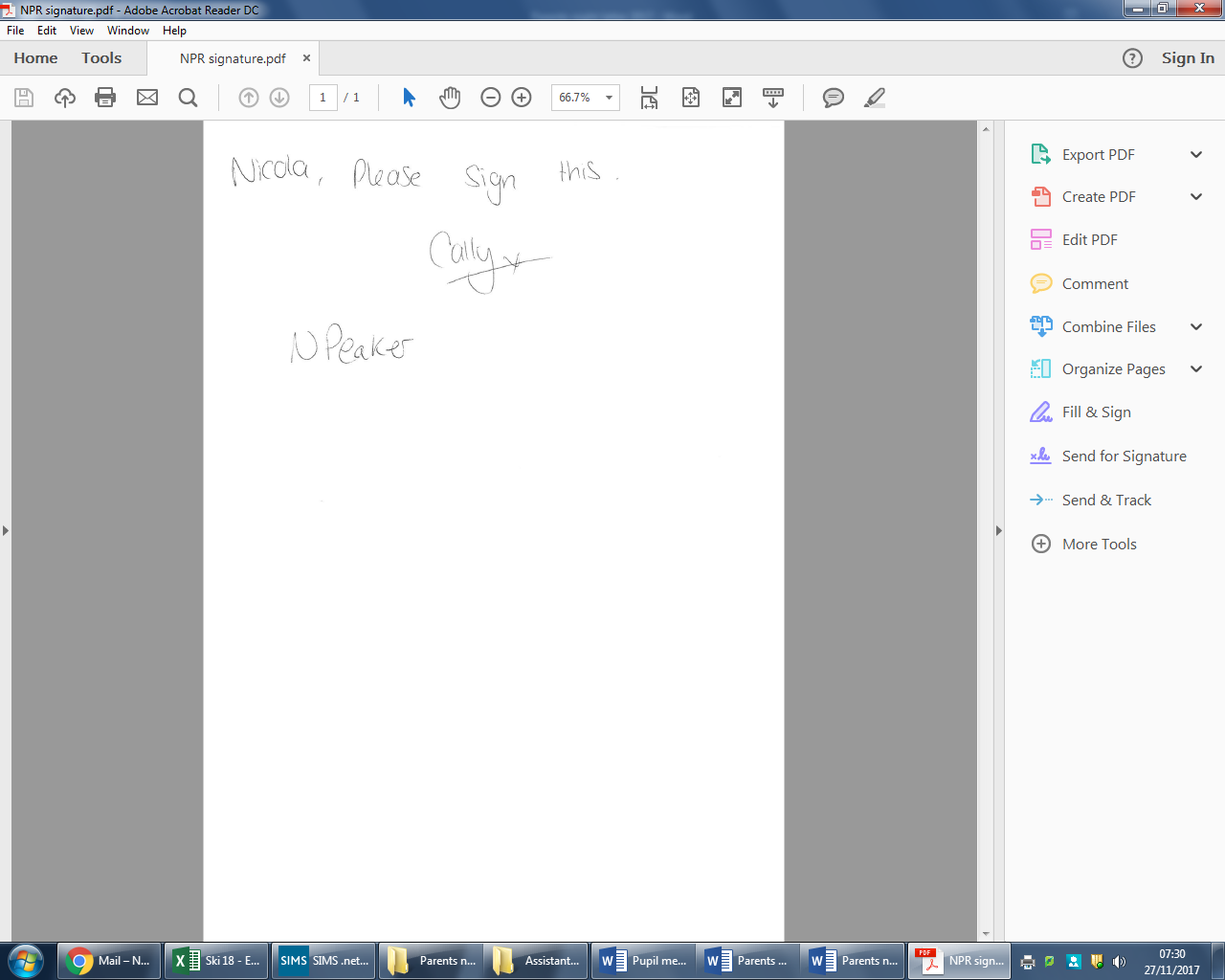
**How will the school communicate during closure periods?**

We will provide updates via ParentMail, SIMS InTouch and on the school website as the situation changes. Updates will also be provided on our social media feeds via Facebook, Instagram and Twitter - please follow @HurworthSchool on these platforms.

If you need to contact the school please email [enquries@hurworthschool.org.uk](mailto:enquries@hurworthschool.org.uk)

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely



Miss N Peaker

Head of School