

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you very much for taking the time to fill in our recent lockdown learning survey. We had a fantastic response rate with over 140 parents taking the time to complete the survey. It has been very useful to receive feedback on the learning provision offered by the school. The responses have been reviewed by the Governors and the headteacher, and while most of the actions will be addressed internally we wanted to respond to some of the points raised.

Overall, the response to the home learning provision was extremely positive with many parents praising the effort made and support provided by the teaching staff. The response to the survey were incredibly varied, reflecting the extremely wide range of circumstances Hillcrest families were experiencing during home-schooling.

Overall, the amount of work, pace and variety seemed about right for most families. However, remote learning is complex, and with such a wide range of individual needs it can be difficult for all involved to manage. We want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank all the staff at Hillcrest for their hard work during this challenging period.

One area, which often divides opinion, was the decision by Hillcrest not to offer live lessons. There were several reasons behind this considered decision:

- As a school we have 99 children with siblings in school and the logistics for staff trying to timetable live lessons across year groups and that of parents trying to access live lessons at set times would have been very difficult. In addition, these children would have needed quiet spaces and access to multiple devices and whilst we have a certain number in school, we did not have enough to cover this amount.
- Pre-recorded bespoke videos by our own class teachers, rather than ones downloaded, meant we had ownership over the content being delivered, taking into account the children's prior learning and the next steps in their learning journey.
- Pre-recorded lessons meant families had the flexibility of what time during the day they want to show the lessons and pupils could pause and rewind teaching points.
- Ofsted concluded that 'live lessons are not always best' and that the quality of what is being delivered is far more important than how lessons are delivered.

The survey responses showed that flexibility is the key to ensuring as many families as possible are able to engage with the home learning. Throughout the three lockdowns the school looked to improve what we were offering our children. Feedback is one of the most powerful tools in a teacher's armoury and towards the end of the last lockdown the school trialled 'live feedback' groups in Year 6 which worked well. If we do have another lockdown, we will certainly look to roll this out into other year groups.

Whilst we hope there will be no return to lockdown learning we are using the responses to the survey to inform any future provision given the possibility of bubble closures. More consideration will be given to the practical nature of the work set, given some families do not have access to certain facilities, such as printers, and a wider overview of the work being set could be made available.

The wide range of helpful advice and that parents included in their responses will be reviewed and compiled and shared as a source for wider reference.

Once again, the Governors recognise that the success of home learning is due to the staff and the parents and guardians of the Hillcrest pupils. This was truly a joint effort. Thank you!

Kind regards

Hillcrest Board of Governors