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| **Highworth Combined School** |
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| Dear allFirstly, my very best wishes to those of you who will be observing Ramadan. It must be difficult to contemplating the start of such a special and important time with the current restrictions in place. I have been reading about innovative ‘virtual’ ways in which families will celebrate together so I hope that this might bring you some opportunities to stay connected.It seems sensible now that we are back in to the new term to reiterate our approach to Home Learning and to explain a few minor changes that we believe could make things a little easier for all.Our core offer will continue to be matrices, posted on the website on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Because we know that many families do not have access to devices or printers, 4 of the 6 activities will not require further internet access. This learning is set by class teachers and is reflective of the priorities for your child and our school. If possible, PLEASE PRIORITISE THIS LEARNING. We will also continue to send daily suggestions for a variety of activities.In the last 2 days, 2 new national on line learning platforms have been launched. For those of you who have internet access and devices, these could be used to supplement the matrices, IF YOU CHOOSE TO.1.      BBC Bitesize: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z6vpnrd>This platform has programmes that can be watched live on the TV according to a daily timetable or on Iplayer at a time to suit. There are further games, activities and worksheets available on line.2.      Oak National Academy: <https://www.thenational.academy/>We love this platform! It has been put together in 2 weeks by some of the best teachers in the country, using approaches to teaching and learning that we at Highworth are working towards. Once a lesson has begun, most children will be able to join in independently so it’s a really good option if the adults in the house need to be doing other things!Most importantly, please remember what I said in my letter just after we started this new way of working:*Firstly, these are unprecedented times. It will be incredibly difficult for you to meet all of the demands put upon you right now. We know that when we welcome your children back, we will have to take account of them having missed a significant chunk of school. This is not a problem; the teachers here are experts in identifying learning needs and meeting them. We will find a way to catch up as our whole nation is in this together. The priority has to be the health and wellbeing of all your family; It is not worth falling out over a task on a website. I hope that you will see this as an opportunity to spend some quality time with your children doing what makes you all happy. However, If you are able to dedicate a little time each day to support your child’s learning, we will be thrilled.*As ever, my very best wishesClare Pankhania   |

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