



# Hulme Hall Grammar School

◆Caring ◆Nurturing ◆Achieving

## Pre-School Newsletter

21 April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to the start of the summer term. I hope you were able to enjoy the sunshine and beautiful weather that we have had recently. This term, we will continue to support your learning at home by providing you with learning tasks. Please note these are not compulsory, the main priority is to stay safe, follow the government guidelines and enjoy learning together—family time is an important factor in your child's development.

### Talking to Young Children about Coronavirus

It has been a strange and challenging time for all of us and it is perfectly normal for you and your child to be feeling worried or anxious. We are here for you every step of the way as we figure this out together. Our website includes some very useful information and advice to help you explain the current situation to your child including an article from Young Minds. Follow the link to the Pre-School section of the website and click on *Be Safe* for more information and resources <https://www.hulmehallschool.org/pre-school-remote-learning/>



### Keeping Active

We hope you are making the most of your daily exercise session. The lovely weather has certainly made it easier to get some fresh air and exercise. It is so important to allow children to burn off energy and stay active, especially at the moment when their world has suddenly shrunk.



There is no reason we should let COVID-19 stop us keeping fit! You may still be doing PE with Joe every weekday like hundreds of thousands of other households or you may be taking the children out on their bikes or to climb a tree like Lottie! Let us know how you are keeping active by sending pictures via your Learning Journal.

### Summer Term Fees

We are aware that many parents may be facing temporary financial difficulties and, in an effort to support and reassure you, the Governing Body have agreed that whilst the Pre School is forced to close due to Coronavirus, you will not be charged any fees. In addition, a credit note has also been processed for school meals and sessions which are not funded by the Local Authority for the 2 weeks we were closed in the spring term.

I hope this gives you some reassurance during this time of uncertainty. If you have any queries please contact our Business Manager, Mr Lynch at [m.lynch@hulmehallschool.org](mailto:m.lynch@hulmehallschool.org).



## Good News!

Congratulations to Mrs Dawson on the birth of her beautiful daughter, Harriet Edie, who arrived on the 16<sup>th</sup> April at 2.42pm weighing 8lb 6oz.

Both mum and baby are doing well and we can't wait to meet the new addition!



## Getting Children Involved

It can be hard to keep your children busy and motivated at the moment but they do like to get involved with adult chores, whether that is cooking and cleaning or just tidying up! Charlotte and her dad have been working on the garden together and it looks like she had great fun with the digger!

## Primary School Allocations

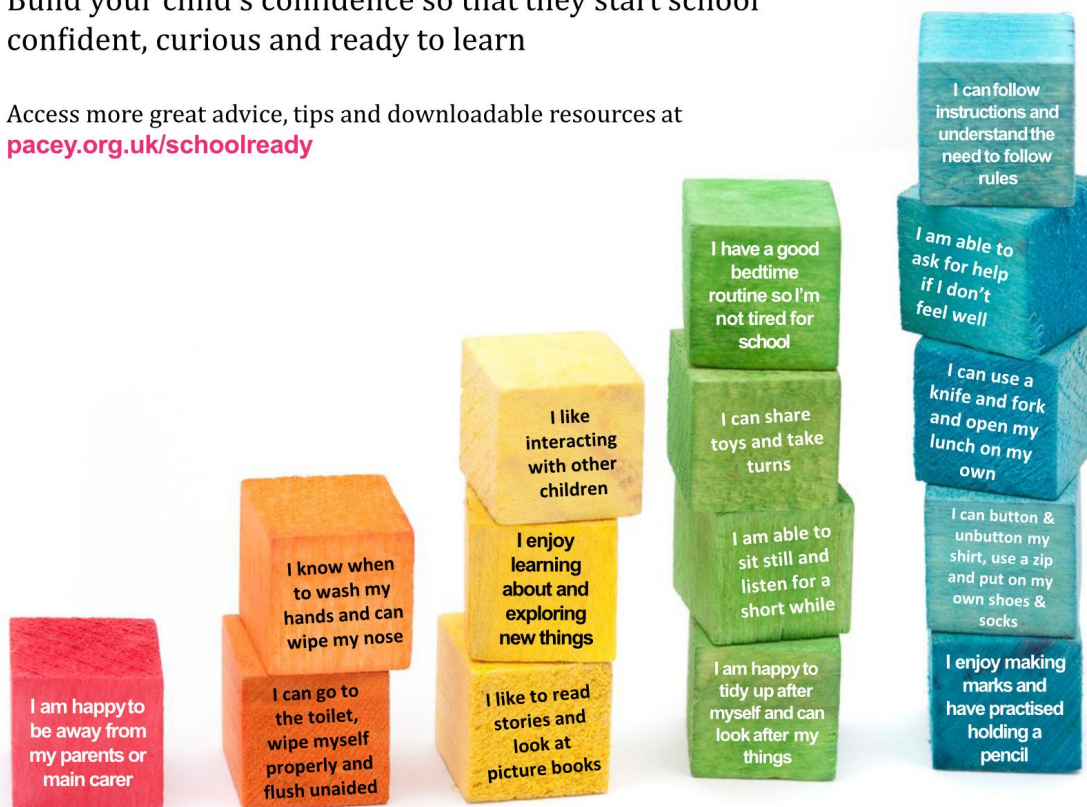
I hope you are pleased with your Primary school allocation. I will be emailing you over the coming weeks to discuss transitions and will provide you with information on school readiness.

I will try and support you in this process as much as possible and am available via email should you have any concerns—[h.khinda@hulmehallschool.org](mailto:h.khinda@hulmehallschool.org)

# Steps to starting school

Build your child's confidence so that they start school confident, curious and ready to learn

Access more great advice, tips and downloadable resources at [pacey.org.uk/schoolready](http://pacey.org.uk/schoolready)



### More top tips:

- ★ Get your child ready for their new routine by switching their meal times to match those of the school day
- ★ Encourage your child to explore new environments and interact with new people
- ★ Talk to your child about what they are most looking forward to at school
- ★ Let your child practise putting their new school uniform on and taking it off
- ★ **And remember**, every child is different and starts school with different abilities



# Pre-School Challenges

How are you getting on with some of the challenges that we set you last term?...



Maria's beanstalk is almost touching her castle now and measures 33cm tall!

Wow! Do you think it will be touching the sky by May?



We set you a challenge to look out of your window and paint/draw what you can see.

Louis painted a wonderful garden scene!

What can you see from your window?



Kian took on the Cheerio Challenge and used his fine motor skills to thread cheerios onto sticks to make a tower. How many do you think he managed to thread?



Zayd completed the Scavenger Hunt Challenge and came across a frog!

## Spring in a Bottle

Lyra managed to bottle spring using some of the petals and flowers that she found in her garden!

Why not go out and explore your garden or local area and see what you can collect that reminds you that it is spring?

Can you find three different coloured items?



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Mrs H Khinda—[h.khinda@hulmehallschool.org](mailto:h.khinda@hulmehallschool.org)

# Fun Activities You Can do At Home

## Learning at Home

As part of the Government daily press release yesterday, Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson acknowledged the challenges that families will be facing at the moment and published further guidance for children aged 2-4 not attending a setting <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-children-aged-2-to-4-to-learn-at-home-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

The BBC has also developed resources for families which are available on TV and online from today. This includes 'Tiny Happy People' but also a further area of 'Learning at home for early years' with resources via BBC Teach, bitesize and audio collections too <https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people>



### Dinosaur Ice Eggs

This is a simple activity, with so many benefits! Get an egg shaped container, fill it with water, throw a dinosaur (or whatever you want—shapes, glitter, paint) into it and leave in the freezer overnight. Children love to explore their senses using ice, as well as watch it slowly melt as they play!

### Car Park Numbers

Here is another very simple activity to engage those little mathematical brains. Draw some parking spaces into a strip of cardboard, find some cars, planes, trains and in fact any vehicles. Stick some numbers on each one and support your child to sequence them using their number skills.



### Hide'n' Seek

Sometimes, all children want is a little bit of adult interaction. A firm favourite is Hide 'n' Seek. This can be played anywhere, with any number of people and for any amount of time. It is great for developing a child's logical thinking and problem solving skills, as well as being lots of fun!



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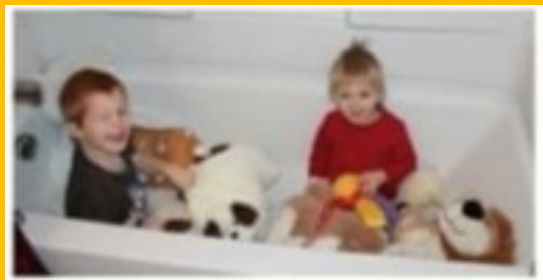


## Flour Mark Making

A great sensory mark making activity that allows children to get completely stuck in with making hand prints, shapes, squiggles and lines to develop the pre-writing skills they will need later in their schooling. For added fun, use glitter or sequins in the tray!

## Sticky Spiders

Throw pom poms, cotton wool balls, rolled up socks or anything light and fluffy to see what you can catch in your sticky tape spiders webs! This is a great way to discuss scientific properties such as heavy, light, sticky, soft and hard. It also helps with physical development and supports gross motor skills.

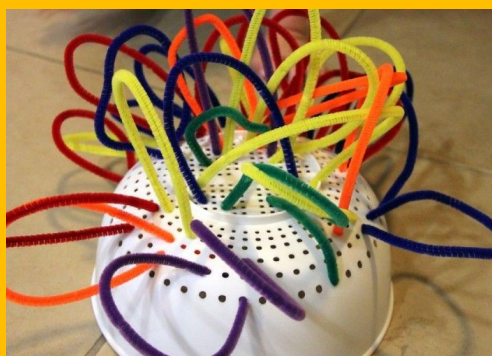


## Bath Tub Animals

Another fantastic sensory activity! Collect every soft toy that you can find, throw them into the bath and add your children! A safe way to keep them busy for hours! You can extend their play by adding empty shampoo bottles, plastic plates and cutlery for a bath tub tea party!

## Sofa Spin

With a roll of masking tape and a few vehicles, you can transform a sofa into a race track! It is perfect for developing co-ordination, following instructions and early writing skills!



## Creative Colanders

A colander can be anything—a helmet for an astronaut, a pot for a mud kitchen, or even a base to make fantastic pipe cleaner creations! Great for supporting fine motor skills and fostering creativity.

Thank you for your continued support and for keeping in touch. We love hearing what you are all up to so please continue to send photographs and share your child's learning from home.