

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020



**PARK HALL**  
ACADEMY

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ASSOCIATE HEADTEACHER: DR T CLOSE

Dear Parents/ Carers

### Microsoft Teams

First of all can I thank you for your ongoing support and forbearance in these difficult times, both teachers, students and parent/carer(s) are continuing to work hard and support each other. While we feel the initial arrangements for communication with students and setting work have been effective, clearly we do need to establish more of a long term solution. As a result we are introducing an app called “**Microsoft Teams**”. This has a number of clear advantages:

- Collects the setting of work and tasks in one place.
- Allows students to prioritise and respond to clear deadlines.
- Enables students to upload their work in one place for additional support from their teacher.
- Allows you as a parent/carer to clearly view what is being set and how best you can support your child.

We feel that using this app, which is free to use for our students, and safe as it uses existing school emails and systems, will really enhance our ability to continue to support the progress and education of our students during this period. We really do appreciate all that is being done at home, particularly with the numerous challenges being faced at the moment. Attached to this letter is a document explaining how you and your child can access this app, either on a computer or mobile device.

**Going forward you should expect the majority of work and tasks to be set for your child using Microsoft Teams.**

If you have any questions, or would like any specific support on the setting up, and use of, **Microsoft Teams**, please email [technicalsupport@parkhall.org](mailto:technicalsupport@parkhall.org).

### Easter Fun Things to do ..

During the Easter Holidays, you are not expected to do any additional schoolwork. However, there may be times when you would like to do something ‘school’ related which is also a bit of fun. If so, here is a list of activities that you could do in the safety of your own home.

#### Art

- Enjoy art museums from around the world for free on Google Arts and Culture:  
<https://artsandculture.google.com/partner?hl=en>

#### Catering

- Make some Chocolate Easter Egg Nest Cakes; recipe at:  
[https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/easteregg nests\\_93841](https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/easteregg nests_93841)

#### Drama

- Enjoy the National Theatre live at home:  
<https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/nt-at-home>

#### English

- Listen to hundreds of free audio stories on:  
<https://stories.audible.com/discovery>



- Log onto Mr Bruff's Podcast for some English fun:  
<https://mrbruff.podbean.com/>

### Geography

- Google Earth – Have a look at ANYWHERE in the world from your home:  
[https://maps.google.co.uk/intl/en\\_uk/earth/](https://maps.google.co.uk/intl/en_uk/earth/)
- Geo Guesser – A game which drops you in any place in the world and you have to work out where you are:  
<https://www.geoguessr.com/>

### History

- Check out the Horrible Histories website:  
<http://www.horrible-histories.co.uk/>
- Visit The British Museum (virtually):  
<https://www.britishmuseum.org/>

### Maths

- Get crafty in Maths with some Origami:  
<https://mathigon.org/origami>

### MFL

- Learn a language using Duolingo APP (free)

### Music

- Garage Band APP (free) turns your iPad, and iPhone into a collection of Touch Instruments and a full-featured recording studio so you can make music anywhere you go

### Science

- Log onto Edinburgh Zoo Web Cams to watch the animals live: <https://www.edinburghzoo.org.uk/webcams>
- Have a 'virtual' zoo day at Chester Zoo:  
<https://www.chesterzoo.org/>
- Drop in on the International Space Station and look at what they are up to:  
[https://www.nasa.gov/mission\\_pages/station/main/suni\\_iss\\_tour.html](https://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/main/suni_iss_tour.html)

### PE

- Complete your daily exercise; use the Strava APP (free) to track and map your daily run (or walk)
- CHA CHA Slide (2 minutes Plank Challenge) – Try it on You Tube!  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x\\_YFkVSp34s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x_YFkVSp34s)

And the most important things to try and do is... relax. Try the following:

- Headspace: Meditation & Sleep APP (free)
- Great Indoor Activities: Lots of ideas of things to do inside:  
<https://www.scouts.org.uk/the-great-indoors/>

**From Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April, BBC Bitesize will also be providing access to regular daily lessons in English and maths, as well as other core subjects, on BBC iPlayer and BBC Red Button. These are six different 20-minute shows, each designed to target a specific age group, from ages 5 to 14.**

From everyone here at Park Hall, we hope you have a restful Easter break, ready for more hard work next term

Yours faithfully



Dr T. Close  
Associate Headteacher