

Here is an update on what we have been doing since the start of lockdown:

Easter Videos

I know we have shared this news with you previously, but we are really proud of the videos we produced and shared over Easter week. These have been viewed far more times than we imagined and hoped they would be and were shared by other schoolswork organisations, how exciting!

Fun Club

Mike and I also created a short video to send out to the Fun Club kids. We looked at the story of Noah and how he might have felt when he was finally allowed out of the ark. One parent said their children "really enjoyed it and they both then beat me at the matching game! It was nice for them to see the familiar faces and be reminded of the fun times at fun club."

Furlough

The High Hopes team were furloughed for six weeks from the start of May and have spent the time creating artwork, being with their families and doing some training. In particular Mike and I took part in a training session covering Grief and how we can help children begin to process their emotions. Mike also took part in a webinar.

Research and Prayer

We have spent the time praying for schools as they have been open throughout the lockdown period, caring for children of keyworkers and now, for Reception, Years 1&6. Our prayers have been for the staff as well as the children navigating the changes this has brought. Mike has also been doing some research around children's experiences of lockdown and how they have felt.

We have spent a lot of time considering how we can adapt our work to the guidelines set out by the government. With this we are talking to schools to see what they want and need from us as well as charities and other organisations to see what they are doing to change their normal work to be suitable. Obviously we are also keeping an eye on government policy to ensure we are following this.

Here are some of the ideas we have had and what we are planning for the future:

Video Assemblies

As are being created by many other organisations

Bubble Worship

Small group assemblies in schools, virtually or in person

Year 6 Transition Workshops

We are making these into a video as soon as Mike is back!

Podcasts

A new way to share our research and to encourage brilliant schoolwork

Assembly packs

Written and given to schools to deliver to their pupils

Panto ONLINE

My favourite idea so far, a choose your adventure style video panto to send out to schools

Virtual lessons

We will be using videos or video chat software to engage with pupils

Live Streaming

Our schoolwork hosted through livestream software

As you can see we have a lot to get on with and also a need for some more resources in order to produce these things, see more about those later on.

As you may be aware, schools across the UK have never closed, continuing to teach and provide for keyworker's children and those who need continued educational support. This has been a tough time for schools and families. Here are some of the key pieces of info that you can be praying for:

School Leadership teams have had to do even more work than usual without much warning

Many children and parents are hitting 'the wall' of home education

Lots of children are adapting to lockdown, but growing worried about losing family time in the future when schools return which is another major transition to go through

Our finances have remained stable throughout this time, mostly thanks to the contributions made from furlough payments by the government.

We have compiled a short list of points which we would really appreciate your prayer for:

- Heads, teachers and staff who have not stopped throughout lockdown. They have had to pull plans and policies out of thin air without any warning as well as providing an education for children not only in school but at home too!
- Year 6 pupils as they try to mark their final days at primary school and deal with the transition to secondary school
- Parents and children who are starting to find home-educating really difficult
- The High Hopes team to continue finding creative and innovative ideas for reaching children
- An office space for the team to work out of and create these new resources from

Thank you so much for all of the donations you currently make to High Hopes, they are so necessary in order to keep us going, especially right now!

To be able to continue reaching children while we cannot visit schools, we need a small amount of new equipment to create videos and other resources. Obviously these come at a cost and we are unable to bring chargeable activities to schools, therefore we would be incredibly grateful if you could consider making a donation for one (or more!) of the following items:

DSLR Camera - £1000

Remote shutter - £35

Tripod - £70

Microphone - £150

Studio lighting - £200

3 Backdrops - £60 each

Again, thank you for all of your prayers, donations and contributions to our work, we literally could not do it without you!