



22nd January 2021

Dear Parents and carers,

Online Home Learning

I would like to reassure all parents and families, that from everything I have seen and heard you are all really trying so hard to embrace this new way of living and learning. I am delighted by the engagement of pupils online and the work being submitted – I look forward to even more of you logging on to Teams next week. There is so much pressure around at the moment, so please know that whilst we make an educational offer, each child learns differently and at different speeds, please do what you feel is right for your child. All the staff are here to support you – feel free to ask questions and the weekly phone calls will continue – teachers have found it wonderful to talk to their pupils at home.

Teams

Thank you to everyone for all your patience with Teams, we appreciate that there are couple of settings issues which parents have let us know about. As with all things new – it often takes someone finding out about an unknown setting and letting us know so that we can turn it off! We are all currently wrestling with some of the foibles of Teams but the work pupils are submitting has really lifted the spirits of teachers and pupils in school. Keep going everyone – together we can make this blend of home and school learning work!

SeeSaw

For our Reception and Nursery children – exciting things are happening in the background and this learning platform is almost up and ready – watch this space!

Facebook

This week a survey monkey was sent out to seek your permission to upload photos and images of your children and their work to all and any of the social media and online learning platforms used in school including the new Facebook page. There will be a more detailed letter to follow about Facebook specifically, but we are all excited about this new way of sharing both the home learning you are doing and the in school learning. Once we are all back to school this will continue to be a valuable tool for you to be able to celebrate your child's learning in school.

Technology/computers/wifi devices

We have had some very generous offers of support from parents, so if you are struggling at home to complete 'Home Learning' on mobile phones or one device for multiple children please contact school. We have a number of reconditioned laptops we can loan out. We also have a large number of free wifi data packs which means families can access resources online free of charge. Please feel free to contact eh school office to let us know if you need any help.

Virtual Golden Book Assembly

Like all things technological, the system did not allow me to post my assemblies today – I hope to have them all online next week. There is one for Nursery/Reception, KS1, LKS2 and UKS2 pupils – It was wonderful reading about all the great things pupils are doing both at home and in school. So please watch this space!

Asymptomatic Covid-19 Testing of staff in school

From next week, all staff will be able to access to asymptomatic twice weekly COVID-19 Lateral Flow Tests (LFD). If a staff member receives a positive LFD result they will then access a PCR test from NHS direct. This means that there could be some difficulty in the first few weeks as we may have to close bubbles preemptively from a positive LFD before a positive PCR test; Public Health England have said that 1 in 3 people are totally asymptomatic and have no idea that they have COVID-19.

The plan is that if a staff member receives a positive Lateral Flow Test (LFD) test you will receive a text message that morning asking you to isolate your child at home, staff will then access an NHS PCR test which can take up to 72hours to come back. If this also comes back positive, then the bubble will remain closed and your child will need to isolate for the full 10 days; if the PCR test comes back negative then the bubble will be reopened the following day. I totally appreciate that this may well cause you all difficulty as texts will need to be sent out on a Sunday and/or a Wednesday early morning about a preemptive and immediate bubble closure.

I hope you all understand that staff are working closely to follow the schools risk assessment, with PHE and NHS Track and Trace to keep themselves and your children as safe as possible. Sadly, sometimes despite following all of the rules a staff member may well have no symptoms but have COVID-19 thus needing the whole bubble to isolate. We will endeavor to always maintain the online Home Learning Offer for every year group via Teams and SeeSaw, however in the very difficult and hopefully rare case of multiple staff being off please be patient with us.

Mental Health and Well-being

As we all know this third national lockdown is really hard for everyone so please ask for help if you need it.

<https://youngminds.org.uk/> This is an excellent charity and their website is full of helpful advice and support

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/a-to-z/c/children-and-young-people> An excellent resource for families and their children

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-health-development/promoting-mental-health-wellbeing> A wonderful charity which can offer help and support to all

Online safety

With schools now only being open to Key Worker and Vulnerable children because of the COVID-19 outbreak, it is likely that there will be an increase of internet use for families and children over the coming weeks, from home. With that in mind, here are some great tips for parents on setting up the right controls and privacy settings to ensure their child stays safe online. There are a number of websites that give detailed advice on staying safe online, such as:

www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls

www.ncsc.gov.uk

www.net-aware.org.uk

www.getsafeonline.org

www.safetymatters.com/blog/parents-guide-for-safe-youtube-and-internet-streaming-for-kids/

Net Aware: Your guide to social networks, apps and games

Net Aware brings together the NSPCC's expertise in protecting children and O2's tech know-how, we've got everything you need to help you keep your kids safe online. Whether you're an online expert or you're unsure of where to start, we're here to help.

National Online Safety Website (#wakeupwednesday)

At National Online Safety, they believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold informed and age-appropriate conversations about online safety with their child, should they feel it is needed. Every Wednesday they produce guides to focus on specific platforms/risks which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please get in touch with us should you have a suggested platform you would like us to focus on by emailing them at hello@nationalonlinesafety.com. Join the **#wakeupwednesday** campaign by visiting the [Wake Up Wednesday Resources page](#) where you can find useful information about Tik Tok, Snapchat, fortnite etc)

UK Safer Internet Centre

They believe that Online safety education is a crucial element of the curriculum and an essential part of young people's development. To raise awareness of the issues that children and young people face online today, the school carries out many age appropriate activities, including participating in the 'Safer Internet Day' organised by the [UK Safer Internet Centre](#), website contains information which is very useful for parents to support the work done in school and ensure that our children keep safe whilst using the ever-expanding growth of mobile technology. This year it is on Tuesday 9th February 2021.

Online Library Resource

Free to all - <https://library.thenational.academy/> This is a brilliant new resource for parents and their children to use to access books free of charge through any electronic device.

I continue to keep you and all of your families in my thoughts and prayers during this challenging time, and I look forward to welcoming you all back into school as soon as it is safe and practicable to do so.

Best wishes,

A D Thorpe

Mrs A. D. Thorpe
Head teacher