



5th February 2021

Dear Parents and carers,

Social distancing at drop-off and collection times

Last week I asked for parental support at drop-off and collection time for their children, in social distancing and not coming up to 20 minutes early to have time to chat to other parents. I ask that you really try to help us out and whilst I totally appreciate that we are all craving friendships and human contact, can I please remind you that the point of this current national lockdown is to reduce social contacts at every opportunity. Please can only one adult (not family groups) per family drop-off and collect their child, and when lining up at collection time that you all socially distance at all times? Please remember that the more we follow the rules the sooner we can get ALL of our children back into school.

Phone calls home

Please always feel free to contact the office and ask a teacher to contact you if you need any further guidance with any online home learning.

SeeSaw

We have sent letters and login details out and look forward to this developing as an excellent tool to promote high quality communication between school and home. I look forward to hearing and seeing photos and work being sent back and forth from home and school. It is an exciting new adventure. Mr Cowan, one of the Reception teachers, is putting together a guide, including some video links to support parents.

Facebook

I have had a number of queries about who will be able to access the new school Facebook account and just before we launch it live we are clarifying all the access permissions as it is our intention to make it a closed group to ensure that anyone who access it has to be accepted by school admin after answering a selection of questions. We are aware that a number of our parents for totally valid reasons do not want their children on an open and public forum. I appreciate your patience whilst we ensure that it is set up correctly prior to launching it.

Technology/Computers/Wifi devices

We still have a number of electronic devices eg. Laptops, Wifi routers and free Wifi codes to support parents and their children who need access to technology. If your children are sharing one laptop between them or they are using a mobile phone to access the online learning, then please contact school. We have resources we can loan out to you free of charge, please just ring the school office.

Virtual Golden Book Assembly

The Golden Book Assemblies for this week have been uploaded to your child's Teams account. For the Reception and Nursery children yours have been uploaded to the school website and will be moved onto SeeSaw when it goes live. So everyone, please remember to keep sending in examples of amazing work to school so that I can share and celebrate with you. For clarity, I have been asked to praise by name, every child, every week, unfortunately whilst I know you all are doing amazing things it is not practicable to do this with 472 pupils on role, so I have asked teachers to nominate 2 children per class per week for individual praise, however I know of course that you are all doing wonderful things.

Mental Health and well-being

There is a link to a website here: <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

The theme is '**Express Yourself**' and there are some activity ideas for children on the website, it is supportive resource to help you at home. The assembly slides, are live on Teams for you to access. We continue to believe that all of your children are capable of amazing things and we encourage everyone, parents and pupils to express themselves individually.

Next week is the last week of this half term, time has flown by and I think you should all be proud of how much you have accomplished and how far we have all come together since the third national lockdown was announced on Monday 4th Jan at 8pm. Thank you for all the support and good wishes, we really appreciate them. The positive feedback continues to boost staff and pupils alike.

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