



'working and growing together'

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Headteacher: Mrs Susan Harrison
Acting Headteacher: Mr Paul Quarry

22nd January 2021

Dear Parents / carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you all safe and well. This week, with no disruption from any adverse weather, we have been able to successfully complete our first full week in school where we have been open to those pupils allocated places alongside running remote learning for those at home at the same time.

As we have mentioned previously, we know that what we are offering in terms of remote learning meets all the criteria as stated by the Department for Education, but we do acknowledge the challenges that many of you are facing in terms of delivering this at home on a daily basis. Please be reassured that we are here to help and support you. We know that there is a range of different circumstances that can impact on your ability to complete all aspects of the remote learning offer every day. We appreciate that this can be stressful for parents and carers as well as children but we appreciate all of your efforts and would like to thank you for this. Please contact school if we can be of support in any way and included in this week's newsletter are links to guide you to websites offering support and tips with managing remote learning and managing mental health and wellbeing during lockdown.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

We know that some parents and carers have found they have been called several times this week (or last week) and appreciate that this may be an inconvenience at times. Please understand though that we are making these calls, and in some cases visits to homes, with good intentions. During times like these, schools have a great responsibility to keep in contact with all pupils and their families to check that everyone is safe and well. Whilst this obviously has the children at its heart, we are aware that these are challenging and stressful times for all. Our calls are intended to be a support, not a hindrance or added stress. Having said this, there is a reduced need for calls if we are in touch with your children and you as a family regularly. Where we have not seen your children or spoken to them, we will contact you to check they, and you, are all safe and well. Where we make repeated attempts to make contact and cannot get in touch, we will come out and conduct a door-step visit, socially-distanced of course. This is to ensure that everyone is safe and well.

If children access their online register on a morning, or that of a sibling, we will not need to call you as we have seen and spoken to the children. During the current lockdown, expectations around accessing online registers and lessons is far greater than in last lockdown. Therefore, if your children are not accessing these registers or sessions online, we will need to call. Likewise, if your children attended live register on a Monday but then have not accessed anything for the rest of the week, we would follow this up and call or visit to check all is still well. Similarly, if your children are accessing online registers but not completing and posting any work on Seesaw, again we would call. These are all part of the important role we have currently and whilst we apologise for any inconvenience these calls and visits create, we do not apologise for taking the safeguarding of your children seriously, including their, and your, mental health and wellbeing.

Please try to do the following:

- Try to ensure that children attend their online register on a morning;
- Where there is more than one child, allow both to attend one of their registers together – this could be particularly useful where children are needing to share a device;
- If you miss the morning register, ensure that your children attend a session / lesson later on that day;
- When you are aware that your children will not be able to attend the online register, send the class teacher, the school office or myself an e:mail or a message on Seesaw, explaining why and when they will next be able to attend online;
- Try to avoid days in a row where children do not access their remote learning;
- Try to encourage children to complete at least some of their work tasks and post them on Seesaw for their teacher to see their engagement and hard work.

ALL OF THE ABOVE HELPS TO KEEP SCHOOL INFORMED AND ALLOWS US TO CHECK THAT EVERYONE IS SAFE AND WELL.



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CRITICAL KEY WORKER AND VULNERABLE CHILD PLACES:

Again, the need for places in school and the need to keep numbers at a safe level for staff and those pupils attending is something that we are continuing to try to manage fairly and safely. We are currently struggling to accommodate some of the requests from critical worker parents that need to access places in school on some days and our levels of attendance compared to other schools in our Multi-Academy Trust are considerably higher. To further highlight this, the average attendance in Wakefield, according to the most up to date figures for primary schools was 24% - ours is 36%. Therefore, we are asking that any parents / carers who are critical workers with children accessing all five days in school throughout the week reconsider the actual days the children need to come to school. Where you are at home for one or some of these days, and your children could access the remote learning, please only send your children to school on the days you are working. This would then allow us a little more flexibility in being able to offer some of the other critical worker parents / carers in need of a place for their children a place in school. We would like to thank the parents that have already opted to do this where they are able to. We do recognise that for some of you, who work all week, this is not an option and completely understand this. In order for us to have a better idea of who needs places on which days, please read the following information and complete the new survey on the link below as soon as possible if it is applicable:

- If you have children attending school currently in a critical worker place complete the new survey below as soon as possible;
- If you have recently contacted school and requested a place because you are a critical worker, please complete the survey as quickly as possible.

You do not need to complete the survey:

- if your child is accessing a place if they are classed as 'vulnerable' in line with the government definition (for example, they have an EHCP or have social worker involvement);
- if you are able to keep your children at home all week as currently arranged.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=KWIBDfrzw0WF-TIBI23JhevMcwC4fldNomIRnPnXvZRUOENJMkNTWU1FR01JVUtCSjhHUEFZTVpUTy4u>

Some parents / carers have requested places but they are not classed as critical workers who need to continue carrying out their work duties and their children are not classed as 'vulnerable' in the government definition. Unfortunately, where this is the case, places cannot be allocated currently. School can offer support in a range of ways, including the loan of devices to help access remote learning, but we will not be able to offer a place. We apologise for this but we must prioritise places for critical workers and those children defined as 'vulnerable'

REMOTE LEARNING

We are now seeing more and more children accessing their remote learning sessions which is fantastic. We did think this would happen as families got used to the new platforms and timetables so thank you for this and we hope it continues. Where families have had difficulties accessing the learning offer from home due to issues with technology and devices, we have been able to successfully allocate devices (whether it be laptops or I-pads) to all families that requested one. If you do think you are eligible to loan a device in order to access the online learning, please contact school or complete the remote learning survey previously sent out to request one and this will be considered. Whilst we only have a limited number of devices, we do still have a few available.

We are aware that with the increased demands of remote learning comes increased stress for all family members, particularly where parents are still working, devices are being shared, children are unwilling to engage with school work at home and all the other challenges presented to you in this new situation. Please do your best. We ask no more than this. We understand completely that it is unrealistic to expect that children complete every single task every single day and whilst we are tracking online engagement and work completion, we are doing this to identify where support may be needed. We are happy to offer this support wherever possible and place a high value on the mental health and wellbeing of pupils, and their families too, as well as their education.



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With this in mind, please see the links below for advice and support with managing remote learning, the stresses involved and how to look after the mental health of yourselves and your children. I would also like to remind everyone that other activities, as mentioned at the start of the last lockdown, can have a positive impact on mental health as well as a hidden educational value too. We love seeing photos on Seesaw of the fantastic school work children have completed but we would also welcome photos of other activities such as board games being played, games of cards and dominoes, any physical activity taking place in the home or garden, puzzles that have been completed, children helping with gardening and other activities that you may be doing that may not be part of our learning offer but have an important role and are valued highly all the same.

Useful links to support with remote learning and mental health:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zgfpqfr?xtor=ES-211-40131-PANUK-SOT-03-SNO-LockdownLearning-RETJ-20210119-1bbcbitesize_howtojuggleyourresponsibilitiesasaparentathome_factualhealthwellbeing

https://www.bbc.com/ownit/take-control/avoiding-arguments-at-home?collection=stayhappy-home&xtor=ES-211-40131-PANUK-SOT-03-SNO-LockdownLearning-RETJ-20210119-1bbcbitesize_tipsandtechniquesforavoidingarguments_education

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/znsmyxc?xtor=ES-211-40131-PANUK-SOT-03-SNO-LockdownLearning-RETJ-20210119-1bbcbitesize_parentstoolkit_education

<https://ssscpd.co.uk/education/parentsandguardians/child-mental-health-10-tips-for-parents/-/pj==s>

FREE SCHOOL MEALS VOUCHERS

The vouchers system is now up and running again and if you are eligible, you should have received your first codes last Tuesday. From now on, these e:mails should be with you every Monday until the voucher scheme ends.

Thank you and enjoy your weekend

Paul Quarry
(Acting Headteacher)

Safeguarding

Please be aware of how long children spend on devices during the holidays and monitor their use.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/need-help>

Further information can be found at:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/schools-esafety/primary/>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/>

<https://www.papyrus-uk.org/>

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/tiktok/>



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Other useful links:

<https://parentinfo.org> - resources and guidance for parents on a wealth of subjects

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/> - guidance about popular apps, games and networks children may be accessing

<https://www.starwakefield.org.uk/> - resources and support to help deal with bereavement

<https://www.camhs-resources.co.uk/> - resources to help with mental health and wellbeing

<https://youngminds.org.uk/> - Young Minds

<https://wf-i-can.co.uk/> - Online resources for children and young people in Wakefield with mental health and wellbeing

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/> - NSPCC

<https://www.lullabytrust.org.uk/> - website for safer sleep for babies

www.iconcope.org – website offering support around normal infant crying and how to cope / manage this

Useful Numbers

YOUNG MINDS PARENTS HELPLINE: 0808 8025544

CHILD LINE - Help for adults concerned about a child call us on 0808 800 5000

CHILD LINE - Help for children and young people call Childline on 0800 1111

NHS - For urgent medical help – use the NHS 111 online service, or call 111 if you're unable to get help online.

NHS - For life-threatening emergencies – call 999 for an ambulance.

POLICE – 101 for non-emergencies or 999 in an emergency

REFUGE – Call 0808 2000 247 for support from the National Domestic Abuse Helpline

NORMANTON FOOD BANK - 01924 895634 or 07307 189851



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COVID19 Symptoms At Home Flow Chart

