



*'working and growing together'*

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Headteacher: Mrs Susan Harrison  
Acting Headteacher: Mr Paul Quarry

29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents / carers,

I hope you are all safe and well. Thank you again for all of your efforts this week with remote learning and thank you also to the critical worker parents who have been able to change the days their children have been attending to allow us to accept the requests of other critical worker parents. This has enabled us to try to keep the numbers of pupils in school at more acceptable levels and therefore keep our pupils and staff as safe as possible.

#### STAFF LATERAL FLOW TESTING SCHEME

Next week, we begin our regular testing of staff using lateral flow tests – something you may have read about or seen in the news lately. As part of this initiative, the staff involved will test themselves twice a week at home and report results to Test and Trace and school. This is to try to reduce the possibility that any asymptomatic staff members (those unaware they have the virus because they are not showing any symptoms) inadvertently come into school and pass the virus on. Below, are some key points regarding the testing that you need to be aware of:

- Staff members will test themselves twice a week;
- If a staff member tests positive, they will need to isolate and arrange a PCR test (drive-thru test / postal test) as soon as possible;
- If a staff member tests positive on the lateral flow test, school may need to isolate the class bubble – this will depend on whether the staff member has been in contact with the children and staff within the bubble in the previous 48 hours;
- If a staff member tests positive on the lateral flow test, has a PCR test (drive-thru test / postal test) but the results of the PCR test are negative, the staff member is cleared to come back to work as isolation is no longer necessary. This would also mean that the class can return to school too.
- In the event of a positive lateral flow test but then a negative PCR test, the class bubble may be isolated only for a day or two until PCR test results are confirmed.

We understand that in the event of a bubble closure, this will be an inconvenience, but the testing initiative is to prevent the asymptomatic staff members being in school and possibly spreading the virus without knowing amongst class members and the wider staff. Alongside the current substantial risk assessment we have in place, we believe that this will increase the safety of those accessing the school and further reduce the risk of transmission of the virus.

#### GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT ON RETURN TO SCHOOL

As you may have seen this week, the Prime Minister did say through the week that the Government are hoping to begin re-opening schools from the 8<sup>th</sup> March if possible. Whilst we understand that this is by no means a definite date, it has prompted some further information being released and it does appear that the following can be confirmed at this point:

- Schools will not be expected to remain open for critical workers and vulnerable pupils through the forthcoming holiday, therefore we can confirm that school will be closed as planned at February half-term;
- The FSM voucher scheme will resume after the half-term holidays until schools do re-open;
- During the holidays, the FSM voucher system appears not to be in place. However, the winter funding support offered during the Christmas holidays from Wakefield Local Authority does appear to be in place to support those families that need this;
- After the holidays, until the date when schools are instructed to re-open, school will operate in the same way it is now and those pupils at home will access remote learning in the same way they are currently.



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### **ONLINE SESSIONS AND REMOTE LEARNING**

Once again, we have seen an improvement in numbers accessing online register, lessons and feedback sessions remotely this week which has been fantastic so thank you for all of your hard work helping us to achieve this. With increased attendance to online registers and other sessions, there has been a reduced number of calls that school has needed to make because of the regularity of the contact and communication with children and their families. Below are the reminders of key points shared last week:

- Try to ensure that children attend their online register on a morning;
- Where there is more than one child, allow both (or all) to attend one of their registers together if this helps – this could be particularly useful where children are needing to share a device;
- If you miss the morning register, try to 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.

### **ONLINE SESSIONS POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

During the course of the week, there has been a number of times where teachers have needed to remind pupils, and contact parents / carers to remind them also, of the rules and procedures regarding online sessions, particularly those that are live. Please can you ensure that your children understand the following and that these procedures are adhered to:

- Pupils should be dressed appropriately for the sessions and be fully clothed when appearing on screen;
- Pupils should up and out of bed when accessing their sessions;
- Pupils should keep cameras and microphones off until advised otherwise by the class teacher;
- Parents / carers should be mindful that when microphones are switched on, they will pick up background noise and conversations which all other attendees will be able to hear – this could include 'private' conversations and inappropriate language;
- Pupils should only use the chat facility for lesson discussion;
- Pupils do need to turn cameras on when requested as this allows school staff to see if they are safe and well as well as hearing from them.

### **KNOWN TECHNICAL ISSUES**

Over the past two weeks, we have become more aware of some of the technical issues that families are facing, so please be aware of the following:

- You can join sessions by clicking on invitations when they arrive or by clicking on events in the timeline;
- Sometimes, parents / carers are reporting they have two invitations the same. If you click one and are not being admitted into the session, try the other invitation;
- If you are late to a session and feel that you are not being admitted, please be patient. If the teachers are sharing screens with the class, they cannot always see the alert (or the chat) to admit you but will do so as soon as they are aware;
- Some parents / carers are reporting issues with Seesaw and not being able to see all of the posted activities. This is most likely because you are logged in to your parent account. If you log out and then log in as your child (log in a student) and you should see all tasks that have been set and access them all.



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### **MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week. With this in mind, and the added pressures of managing remote learning during a lockdown as well as the other challenges that lockdown brings, teachers will be planning some activities around mental health and wellbeing during the course of the coming week. We would encourage families to complete these activities, where appropriate, together as these times can be stressful for everyone – pupils and parents alike.

### **EXPRESS YOURSELF ON FRIDAY 5<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**

With the theme of children's mental health week being 'Express Yourself' we are encouraging all pupils at school and at home to dress in a way that expresses themselves on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February. This may be dressing up in your favourite outfit, dressing in clothes linked to a favourite hobby or even as a role model you look up to.

### **SUPPORT AND INFORMATION**

Please remember that school is only a phone call or e:mail away and we are happy and willing to help in any way we can so please do contact us if we can be of support. Below, is a range of links to recommended resources to help with mental health and wellbeing as well as the increased pressures of having to deal with remote learning too:

#### [Children's Mental Health Week 2021](#)

[https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zgfpqfr?xtor=ES-211-\[40131\\_PANUK\\_SOT\\_03\\_SNO\\_LockdownLearning\\_RET\]-20210119-\[bbcbitesize\\_howtojuggleyourresponsibilitiesasaparentathome\\_factualhealthwellbeing\]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zgfpqfr?xtor=ES-211-[40131_PANUK_SOT_03_SNO_LockdownLearning_RET]-20210119-[bbcbitesize_howtojuggleyourresponsibilitiesasaparentathome_factualhealthwellbeing])

[https://www.bbc.com/ownit/take-control/avoiding-arguments-at-home?collection=stayhappy-home&xtor=ES-211-\[40131\\_PANUK\\_SOT\\_03\\_SNO\\_LockdownLearning\\_RET\]-20210119-\[bbcownit\\_tipsandtechniquesforavoidingarguments\\_education\]](https://www.bbc.com/ownit/take-control/avoiding-arguments-at-home?collection=stayhappy-home&xtor=ES-211-[40131_PANUK_SOT_03_SNO_LockdownLearning_RET]-20210119-[bbcownit_tipsandtechniquesforavoidingarguments_education])

[https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/znsmyxc?xtor=ES-211-\[40131\\_PANUK\\_SOT\\_03\\_SNO\\_LockdownLearning\\_RET\]-20210119-\[bbcbitesize\\_parentstoolkit\\_education\]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/znsmyxc?xtor=ES-211-[40131_PANUK_SOT_03_SNO_LockdownLearning_RET]-20210119-[bbcbitesize_parentstoolkit_education])

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

We have also included the Wakefield Families Together leaflet that lists a host of different agencies that are available for support should you need them.

### **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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#### ICON

Unfortunately, Wakefield has experienced recent baby deaths here in the district as a result of overlay, unsafe sleeping and shaken babies. The ICON program can help to prevent this with the support it provides:

- I – Infant crying is normal;
- C – Comforting methods can help;
- O – It's OK to walk away;
- N – Never, ever shake a baby

[Wakefield safeguarding children partnership \(wakefieldscp.org.uk\)](http://wakefieldscp.org.uk) – info for staff and parents, including the safer sleeping standard information.

[The Lullaby Trust - Safer sleep for babies, Support for families](#) – info for staff and parents.

#### 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](http://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

Thank you and enjoy your weekend

**Paul Quarry**  
(Acting Headteacher)



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### COVID19 Symptoms At Home Flow Chart

