



'working and growing together'

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Headteacher: Mr Paul Quarry

5th March 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

A huge well done to all parents, carers and pupils at home. You have completed another period of 'school closure'. We know how difficult and challenging these periods of time are and the higher demands of remote learning have added an extra pressure and stress to an already stressful situation. We know that you have done the best you can and as of next week, on Monday 8th March, we will be able to do what we are trained to do best – teach full classrooms of children again! We cannot wait to have our classes full of smiling faces again.

We do recognise that the reintegration to school will have proved to be challenging, both physically and mentally, for some pupils. Please rest assured that we have plans in place for the first couple of weeks of return, and beyond, to ensure that the mental health and wellbeing of the children is a priority.

By the time you are reading this newsletter, you should have received information about the wider re-opening of school. Almost all of this information is the same as when we broke up for the Christmas holidays. We have tried to split the information into smaller manageable documents rather than one lengthy one and hope that this helps you to find the information you need more quickly.

There are certain pieces of information being circulated in media and social media which we have had enquiries about that I thought it worth clarifying in the newsletter for you:

TESTING PUPILS FOR COVID-19 – We will not be testing pupils. Secondary school pupils are having tests but this does not apply to primary school pupils. In order for tests to be conducted on pupils, even at secondary school, parental permission is required first anyway so please do not worry that your primary age school children will be tested without your knowledge and permission. Staff members will continue to test themselves twice a week as they have been doing since February.

MASKS / FACE COVERINGS – There is no expectation that pupils at primary schools wear masks. In fact, the guidance states that it does not apply to primary age pupils. We do ask that all adults wear face coverings on the school site though and please remember to keep your distance from others using the markings on the playground.

From school's perspective, we have tried to keep as many procedures as possible the same to make the transition back to school easier for you and your children. The main reason for this was that previously they were recognised as effective by the Health and Safety Inspector who visited school. All minor actions suggested were put in place in November and we are confident that these are contributing to the environment being as safe as possible, considering the circumstances. This is further reflected in the positive comments we have received from pupils and parents but also by the fact that the staff members themselves feel safe and confident in the risk assessment in place to protect them.

We do need your support with the rules and procedures though so please ensure you have read them carefully and follow them fully. This includes following Government guidance on bubbles and social distancing out of school also. We have been made aware of larger groups of children gathering together on the streets around school where the groups far exceed what the Government is asking and goes beyond 'support bubbles'. Please consider that where the Government guidance is not being followed and children and families are mixing in larger numbers than permitted, when the children are coming back into school afterwards, the risk is increased to other pupils in school and staff members who are working hard to follow the restrictions in place to keep your children, themselves and their own families safe, whilst working in a higher risk profession. We have also been made aware of family members helping with drop-off and pick-ups who do not seem to be clear of the procedures. As we have asked before, we request that you make sure any family members coming onto the school site are fully briefed on the one-way system, gates to use and the doors to queue at so that everyone is following the same rules.



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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/>

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 – 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

Enjoy your weekend, look forward to no remote learning next week and we look forward to seeing you all on Monday morning,

Paul Quarry (Headteacher)



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COVID19 Symptoms At Home Flow Chart

