



3rd April 2020

Good afternoon everyone.

I have very mixed feelings writing this to you given that we would normally have been heading off for an Easter Holiday and break from School. As we all know today feels probably like yesterday and for that matter similar to the last ten days – very strange and peculiar.

We have all been coping with new ways of working, learning and living. I would like to offer a huge WELL DONE EVERYONE! Well done indeed for finding innovative ways of living and coping with the country in lockdown. I am sure the children have been creative and explored all of the ways to entertain family and siblings. I hope this has been generally positive and helpful. Undoubtedly there will be occasions where sharing the same space will create tension. The trick is noticing this and taking positive action to change the focus.

Physical and mental well-being is vital during normal times and become increasingly important as we experience different living circumstances. I would like to share the link below to NHSinMind which I hope will be useful for you.

<https://www.nhsinmind.co.uk/>

I am very proud of TeamWPS – all of our staff have stepped up and made themselves available to support the school in providing child care for Critical Workers. The Government guidance which states it is safer for children to remain at home wherever possible has prevented unnecessary spread of the COVID-19 virus, protecting our staff team and ultimately saving lives. The service we have provided for Critical Care workers means the amazing work they are completing keeps our country going and caring for us when we are at our most vulnerable. In particular our parents and carers of uniformed services, NHS, logistics and food production. I know I speak on behalf of our school community in offering sincere thanks to you. Last night the 8pm applause was given to all Critical workers and I hope you joined in with this energetically. Personally, I was taking some exercise out and about where I live - at this time and it felt like I was being clapped to a marathon finish line, my speed picked up and a huge smile came upon my tired face. I knew the clap last night was also for Education Staff – so proud of our education colleagues near and far.

It may be that you have been fielding Questions from your child/children over this time regarding COVID – 19. I know the children were interested and concerned in equal measures as we increased the hygiene expectations in school and assemblies dealt with the emerging situation. I share the resource provide by

the Children's Commissioner and recommend you view the materials first and judge whether this may be a helpful resource for you to share with the children.

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/publication/childrens-guide-to-coronavirus/>

Parents and Carers in receipt of Free School Meals will know we moved over to a voucher system last Thursday. This has successfully run for this week too. Yesterday the Government announced the much anticipated voucher scheme offered by Edenred. The office has started the initial sign up process and we are looking to move over to the new system to coincide with the current voucher issue end date of Wednesday 22nd April. Please do remember the vouchers were issued for 10 days and included the Mon-Weds after the Easter break. We will provide all of the details of this scheme and will only transfer when we know it is completely working so as to not put families into a vulnerable position.

At Werrington Primary School, we take the safety of our pupils very seriously including their safety while they access the internet. We encourage this approach to E-safety to spread to the home online environment.

Here are a few tips to help you keep your children safe on line:

- Thinkyouknow (advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online)
- Internet matters (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- Parent info (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- LGfL (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- Net-aware (support for parents and careers from the NSPCC)

Another site that is helpful for parent controls is UK Safer Internet Centre

(<http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-and-resources/parents-and-carers>)

This site advises you to take four steps:

1. Have ongoing conversations with your children about staying safe online
2. Use safety tools on social networks and other online services, eg Facebook privacy settings
3. Decide if you want to use parental controls on your home internet e.g. sky broadband shield
4. Understand devices and the parental control tools they offer in our Parents' Guide to Technology

There are also three question to think about:

WHO your child is talking to,
WHAT they're doing, and
WHERE they're going online?

It is good practice to involve your child and set "ground rules" by making your own family IT policy.

The big issues

Create boundaries and rules for the amount of time your son or daughter can spend online. It is never too early to start putting limits into place.

The basics

Choose an appropriate homepage on your family computer or tablet – for example, bbc.co.uk/cbeebies or BBC bitesize

Worth Checking - The educational apps, games and TV shows on offer for pre-school children, and the age ratings and descriptions for them.

Talk it through - Share your technology rules with grandparents, babysitters and older siblings, so that they stick to them when they look after your child or use the family computer.

And finally.....

The rules and conversation you have now will set the tone for your child's internet use, as they get older. Please do not hesitate to contact us via office@werrington.peterborough.sch.uk if you have any concerns or questions about keeping your child safe online.

Important updated information from the DfE 31st March 2020 for parents and carers (link):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Extracts taken from this link are:

What support will be available to parents to help them educate their children at home?

More information will follow about what DfE is doing to support parents. We are working with the BBC and others to provide resources for children to access while at home. For parents with children under 5 years old see hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk

Where can I go to get support to help keep my child safe online?

There is a lot of support available to keep your child safe online.

Below are some useful links to help parents and carers:

- Thinkyouknow (advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online)
- Internet matters (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- Parent info (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- LGfL (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- Net-aware (support for parents and careers from the NSPCC)

Much of the above is available through the School website - Safeguarding and Child Protection including internet safety.

I will keep in touch with you over the next two weeks as we switch Critical Worker child care arrangements - based out of John Clare Primary School for the Trust.

The School Office email will be monitored office@werrington.peterborough.sch.uk and will be escalated as necessary to the Senior Leadership Team and myself.

In the meantime please do keep safe and well.

Yours sincerely,

Ben Wilding
Headteacher/CEO