

8 May 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

I hope that you are keeping well. As we celebrate VE Day it seems appropriate to reflect and look at the way we have tried to respond in keeping our school community connected. Since the beginning of the Covid-19 outbreak, I have been working closely with staff to review plans and respond to this unprecedented situation that we find ourselves in. I would like to offer my sincere appreciation to the many parents who continue to take the trouble to express their thanks and support to the whole staff team for their efforts at this time. It has been extremely moving to read your generous feedback for the work that the staff are doing. We understand it really has been a true team effort.

Reopening School

There is constant speculation in the national media that schools will be reopening in the very near future, with much that is unhelpful and is creating further anxiety, in what is already a complex position. I would like to reassure you that, like all schools in the country, we will follow the government's guidance when it is issued and open school according to the detail of that guidance. Until that point, we will continue to plan and prepare for the multiple different scenarios, that may be offered and will put the health and welfare of all members of our school community at the heart of any actions we take.

Remote Learning

Colleagues have been really impressed with our students' commitment and engagement with home learning and appreciate all the support that you, as parents, are providing to encourage your children to develop routines and engage with the activities set. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our teachers and support staff for their efforts in ensuring that students' learning is preserved as much as possible during these uncertain times. We will continue to offer varied assignments through Microsoft Teams as well as signposting to interesting, creative ideas through our new Keeping Connected bulletin for students and social media.

Can I once again reiterate, that we are more than aware that each family situation is different, and it can change very rapidly as this crisis evolves, thereby we are clearly trying to provide the appropriate support for all members of our community. We all want our young people to flourish and thrive both academically and emotionally, so although colleagues are providing a scaffold for lessons and activities, they are also as importantly here to support with pastoral queries. As always, transparent communication between student, parent and school allows for solutions to be found, so please let us know if we can help on an individual case situation.

BBC Bitesize

If you haven't already checked out BBC Bitesize it is certainly worth a visit to the website. Along with daily lessons, BBC Bitesize features all sort of interesting topics for children from 3-16+ years. Your child can engage with online learning with celebrity teachers such as Sir David Attenborough, Mabel, Liam Payne and Rachel Riley, watch educational videos on the BBC using the red button or listen to podcasts. We know that this doesn't replace lessons with their regular teachers in a real classroom, but it may provide some light educational entertainment.

Home Learning Tip of The Week

Six Word Stories

Why not ask your child to tell you about a topic they have learnt but they can only use 6 words to tell the story!! Does not have to be full sentences!

For example – if they had been reading about the death of suffragette Emily Davison at the 1913 Epsom Derby = Emily wants vote. Horse says no.

PPE – Face Shields

Our amazing Design Technology teachers and learning support staff continue to come into school every day to make and assemble face visors for front line health workers. A special mention to Miss L Griffiths, Mrs S Wilson, Mrs W Cooper and Mrs J Woolley who have worked tirelessly again this week on this potentially lifesaving work. So far, the team have produced over a thousand face shields; many have been provided to protect parents and relatives of our students who work in the following front line services Spital Surgery; Sutton Beeches; Complete Care, Riverside Care Homes, Wirral Community Nurses; Heswall Care Home (CCA); The Knoll (Countess of Chester); Merseyside Police; Cheshire Police; Royal Liverpool Hospital (Ward 7); GP Hub (Thingwall) (Children's); Whitby GP Surgery; Heswall and Pensby Medical Centre; Cardiorespiratory Arrowse Park; Arrowse Park Hospital (PLI); Neston GP Surgery; St Caths Hospital; Brimstage Manor Care Home; Hilbre Manor Care Home; Hinderton Mount Care Home.

Support for Families

If you're finding it hard at home with your child and are struggling to cope, call [Family Lives](#) for free, confidential advice on **0808 800 2222**.

And finally, if you haven't already heard this, it is worth a listen, Tom Foolery, a young British poet with his viral clip [Tell me the story about the virus](#).

Until next week, stay safe and thank you for keeping your child connected with their school.

K Simpson
Headteacher