



Wednesday 1st April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

WE HAVE ASKED PARENTS TO KEEP THEIR CHILDREN AT HOME, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, AND FOR SCHOOLS TO REMAIN OPEN ONLY FOR THOSE CHILDREN WHO ABSOLUTELY NEED TO ATTEND.

Thank you once again for taking on board the above advice and for reviewing your situations in light of Government guidance. The safety of our families and the wider community is paramount and your efforts to work with us through these difficult times have been much appreciated. Numbers are dwindling by the day in school; we have had between 2 and 7 children each day this week. This shows that people are taking their responsibilities very seriously and offers hope that we can work together to beat this terrible virus.

Keyworkers

Please note our opening times over the Easter holiday will remain as **8am-4pm** on weekdays from Monday 6th April until Friday 17th April inclusive. This will also include the Good Friday and Easter Monday Bank Holidays. We are starting to work with other schools locally and within the Trust to consolidate our provision so it may be that there are a small number of children and staff from other schools on site during these weeks but there will always be a member of the Warboys team here to ensure your children see a familiar face.

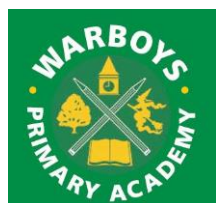
We recognise that your needs change on a daily basis so we are trying to be as flexible as possible with our childcare offer. The school will be open every weekday morning at 8am and there will be staff here ready to greet the children. If you need to bring your child to school and have not previously notified us, you are welcome to do so. If we have not received a completed Key Worker request form you will simply be asked to do this on arrival.

If there are no children on site by 9.30am each day then we will send our staff home but please note this does not mean that school will be closed. You can still contact us to request childcare and we will ensure that staff return to school to accommodate your request. If you need to contact us in an emergency to request childcare you can do so by calling **07850 089196**. Please note this number is for **emergencies only** and is not to be used for general enquiries. General enquiries and non-urgent matters should still be directed to the School Office in the first instance.

Thank you to everyone who has already completed their request forms for the Easter holiday period. If you have not done this yet please do get in touch to support us with our planning.

Home Learning

All children have been provided with home learning activities to take them up to Friday 3rd April. The staff will not be setting any further work for children ahead of the Easter holidays. If you have any questions about the home learning packs please email them to the School Office and we will endeavour to ensure that class teachers respond as quickly as possible. Please do not contact us to request more work. There will be more coming after the Easter holidays.



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Due to the success of Tapestry we have started the process of setting up a similar system for the rest of the children in school. Mr Bostock and Mr Herring are currently completing this piece of work so we hope to be up and running from Monday 20th April. We are excited about this development in school and we look forward to sharing further information in due course. In the meantime, you are welcome to keep emailing in examples of children's work and photographs. We love to see what they are all doing.

School Blog

The staff at school are really missing the children and their regular contact with families. Please keep checking the blog on the school website so that we can keep in touch with you. You can find it by following this link:

<https://www.wpa.education/blog/?pid=20&nid=53>

Communicating with Staff

Please could I ask parents and children not to try and contact members of staff using their personal data. This is a direct breach of our communication policy and places staff in a difficult situation. Whilst we appreciate that these are unusual circumstances, we must ensure that professional boundaries are maintained, and staff privacy is respected. If you would like to get in touch with a member of the team you can do this by contacting the school office. Emails and telephone messages are checked daily and we will ensure that all communications are passed on. If you would like to speak directly to someone then it is best to telephone between 8am-9.30am on weekdays when Mrs Bradley or Mrs Harding are in the office. You can call between 9.30-4pm but please be patient as there will be a skeleton staff on site answering calls and caring for children.

Family Support Worker

This is just a reminder that our family support worker is still available to support you with any difficulties you might be facing at home. These are challenging times and several people have been in touch to seek support with managing their children at home. Ann James is available Tuesday- Thursday each week and can be contacted as follows: Tel: 07824 354592 / 01480 376195 or Email: Ann.james@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Here is a link to some online advice which you may also find helpful:

<https://www.familylives.org.uk/advice/your-family/family-life/coping-practically-and-emotionally-during-the-covid-19-outbreak/>

Safeguarding

If you have any safeguarding concerns these can be emailed to safeguarding@wpa.education.

News from school

The school continues to feel very strange with only a few children attending each day and we are really missing all of our families, it is so quiet. The mood does continue to be happy though and the children attending are having a lovely time. I brought Harriet in for the day on Friday and she hasn't stopped talking about what a lovely time she had with the children here. She is desperate to come back and visit again but for the time being she is at home with Daddy, getting on with her home learning and throwing in the occasional tantrum! I can sense her frustration at not being able to play with her friends and go to school, so I know how you are all feeling.

It is important that you try to keep busy and find new things to do to break up your days. Keeping in touch with family is also important and trying to maintain as much safe contact as you can. We had our first senior leadership team meeting on Monday as a video conference and it was nice to be able to have a conversation and see everyone on the screen. We are going to attempt a social gathering this evening using 'Zoom' software (other apps are available) so next time I write I will let you know how that goes. As a staff team we are certainly upskilling in the ICT department – some with more success than others!

The senior leadership team continue to make telephone calls to some families so don't be surprised if you hear from one of them. We are trying to keep in touch with you as much as possible and this is just one of the things we are doing to support you through these challenging times. Please do not feel threatened by this, we are not 'checking up' more 'checking in' and offering a friendly voice. To be honest we love making the calls and it is even better if we get to speak with the children too. Their comments can be quite entertaining.



As the term draws to a close, I feel sad thinking about the things that we should have been doing this week such as the Achievement Awards and the Easter Bonnet parade. We would also have been saying goodbye to Mrs Dickinson as today should have been her last day in Starfish class before she starts her new role at Kingsfield School. We need to say a huge thank you to Mrs Dickinson for the outstanding contribution she has made to the life of our school and will be inviting her back in for a proper send off when normality resumes. Please reassure the children that she will come back into school to say goodbye when it is appropriate.

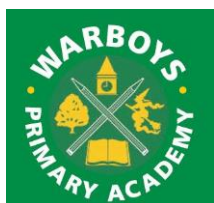
Amongst all this sadness I also feel an overwhelming sense of pride in our community. The warmth that has been shown through communications and the commitment of staff to carry on their work for the good of our families has been truly amazing. Everyone is adjusting to a new way of working but staff are working just as hard (if not harder) to ensure we continue to offer the best provision and service we can. These are strange and difficult times for everyone but the Warboys team has really stepped up and shown their brilliance. I am also incredibly proud of the children both at home and in school. They are working hard and remaining positive which is a constant reminder of the importance of what we are doing.

We know that these are testing times for parents and carers but you are doing a fantastic job at home with your children and must remember to be kind to yourselves. Everyone is doing their very best under the most challenging of circumstances and your best is better than good enough! We will continue to move forward together and will rise from this with a new perspective that will make us stronger than ever before. Keep calm and carry on and thank you for all that you are doing to support your children and our country. We will beat this!

Our thoughts are with all of you at this very difficult time and please remember there is always somebody at the end of the phone or an email if you need support. Stay safe and well.

With very best wishes

Becky Ford
Headteacher



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