



Thursday 30th 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

Keyworkers

Our opening times remain as 8am-4pm on weekdays. If you require childcare because you are a keyworker, please could you kindly complete the childcare request form that Mrs Bradley sends out to support us with planning. It is important that we know how many children we are expecting to ensure staffing levels are adequate, and we do not exceed our limit to maintain social distancing. We recognise that your needs may change at short notice so if this happens please just let us know by calling the school office. Thank you to everyone who has already completed their request forms for next week.

Please note that whilst we continue to offer a hot cooked meal at lunchtime, we are unable to offer the children any other snacks or meals so it would be helpful if you could ensure children have had breakfast before they come to school and are sent in to school with a mid-morning snack.

Home Learning

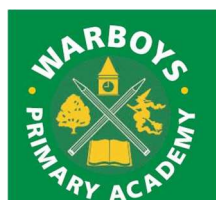
Thank you very much for supporting the introduction of Class Dojo. We now have 94% of our families connected. Last week there were 2370 photographs or videos uploaded and 1320 messages exchanged. We hope to sustain this level of engagement with you as time moves on and that the initial excitement does not wear off.

Several parents have been in touch expressing concerns about the amount of work shared in Class Dojo. I would just like to make the point again, that this work is not in any way compulsory for your children. Our intention is to provide ideas and support you with activities to use at home if you choose to, it is not to put you under additional pressure. We understand that you may be trying to work from home and support your children at the same time but none of us are superhuman and we are all struggling to find our way through. The last thing we want to do is increase your load with high volumes of home learning.

It is far more important that your children feel safe and happy during this difficult time so please don't feel you have to enforce schoolwork with them. Our primary reason for introducing Class Dojo was to focus on children's well-being and maintain important relationships with them. This remains our focus and we hope our endeavours will have positive outcomes.

If you are worried about your child falling behind, then the most important things to focus on are Reading and Maths. If your child is doing a little bit of work in whatever format from each of these subjects, this will support them when we eventually get back to school.

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office@wpa.education
www.wpa.education



Queen's Gardens, Peterborough
Cambridgeshire, PE1 2UW
Tel: 01733 426046 Fax: 01733 426061
information@tdet.education
www.tdet.education

Please do continue to share any concerns with the teachers and we will support you where we can. There will be some days when staff cannot complete their posts in Class Dojo because they are working in school. We will try to let you know when this is the case, but it will only be one day every few weeks. Children could use those days to catch up on their weekly tasks.

EYFS Tapestry

This continues to be used successfully and inspired us to introduce Class Dojo for the rest of the school. Thank you to all our EYFS community who continue to keep in touch and share work through Tapestry. We love receiving your posts and seeing what you are all doing at home.

Celebration Assembly

It was a lot of fun being able to hold a celebration assembly last week and I hope that all our nominated children received their certificates safely through the post. Celebration Assembly will take place again this Friday and I am already receiving nominations, so I look forward to doing this again.

Free School Meals

During these difficult times there are an increasing number of families experiencing financial hardship as a result of unemployment. If your circumstances have changed, you may be eligible to apply for free school meals and I would urge you to do this. Applications are still currently being processed so it is worth your while applying. If you require support or additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Friday 8th May, Bank Holiday – 75th Anniversary of VE Day

Whilst school will be open on Bank Holiday to offer childcare for children of keyworkers, I think it is important that we all use this day to mark the anniversary of this important historical event. Teachers will not post work in Class Dojo and will not respond to messages. Instead I would encourage everyone to participate in as many locally organised events as possible (whilst maintaining social distancing) such as the ones organised by the WCA. Despite the lockdown there are still lots of ways (in plan B) that families can engage with the celebrations and we hope that you all have a fabulous day. Please see the WCA poster attached for further information.

Communication with school and requests for support

We are currently experiencing a high volume of calls and emails requesting support on several matters. In order to help us deal with your enquiries more efficiently please could I ask for your help to direct them to the right place.

For general enquiries...

...such as help with food vouchers, keyworker places etc.

Please contact the main school office either by telephone or email.

For support with technical problems...

...such as passwords and usernames or accessing the learning platforms.

Please use the link on the school website or [here](#) and complete the form as prompted. Please do not email these to the school office as they cannot manage the volume of emails and something important may get missed.

For support from the teachers with home learning (content not technical).

Please send messages to the teachers through the Class Dojo or Tapestry platforms and they will respond during working hours.



Family Support Worker

This is just a reminder that our family support worker is available to help with any difficulties you might be facing 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.

Additional Advice and Support for families

The Local Authority have published a wealth of high-quality resources and information to support families on a number of different areas. You can access them by following any of the links below.

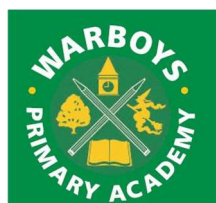
- [Home Learning](#)
- [Wellbeing](#)
- [Free Resources](#) – A selection of resources from LA advisers
- [School Competition and Projects](#)
- [Internet Safety](#)

Looking after the mental health and wellbeing of children or young people, including those with additional needs and disabilities, during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

[New guidance has been published here](#)

News from school

Numbers in school have steadied this week and we have continued to support between 8-17 children. It is disappointing that we have had such miserable weather as we haven't enjoyed as many outdoor activities as we usually do, and the days do feel longer when we are cooped up indoors. Despite this the school has continued to feel happy and vibrant as the children have gone about their daily tasks.



We are continuing to work with Ashbeach and Upwood and they regularly contact me to express their thanks for the warm welcome they receive in school. We are continuing to grow our network of support through these links and working together has many benefits for all 3 schools. Even the children are starting to make new friends which has been lovely. We are continuously reviewing our provision at the hub to improve it and ensure that it supports our communities well. I am very proud of the fact that we can host this.

Please take heart from the important messages I have shared today and be kind to yourselves and each other. If you are struggling at home, please reach out to us as we are all here for you and will do what we can to support – sometimes you just need someone to talk to – I know I do! Stay positive and strong, you are doing an amazing job and we will all get through this.

With very best wishes,

Becky Ford

Headteacher