



24th April 2020

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to begin by thanking parents and children (past, present and future) for the wonderful video which was sent into school. The images and messages, combined with 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow', brought tears to our eyes. They also made us smile, too. The messages meant a great deal to everyone associated with school, especially staff who have all been working hard to look after the children coming in, preparing learning for at home and making sure school is ready for when we all return.

To know we mean so much to you is both humbling and priceless.

'Keeping in touch'

At the moment I am working with staff to telephone families to check that you are all ok. As you can imagine this is taking a little time, however we are determined to get to you all. If we do not get an answer we will leave a message and try and get back to you again.

Our '**Website**' will continue to be used as the main place to find up to date information. Each of the folders you see there will hopefully contain information you need. If, however, you feel we are missing something, please let us know.

School will use '**Call Parent**', '**Our School's App**' and **Twitter** for quick updates and information sharing. You will find that staff will also use 'Purple Mash'. For parents, the **PAWS Facebook** page, **Twitter feed** and **Homelearning@ email** can be used for messaging into school.

Once again, if you know of a parent, carer or family who is struggling to pick up any information through any of these on line systems, we ask that you let the school know so we can find a way to help.

Home Learning

By now most of the children will have completed the packs they took home and be working on 'Purple Mash', 'My Maths' and the other resources online. I have been very impressed with what children and parents have done so far. You may find that the work involves going over learning that the children have already covered. This 'overlearning' is important as the more the children repeat and practise the greater the chance the knowledge and understanding of what they are doing will 'stick'. 'Overlearning' will help the children when they have new learning to do in the future.

We are conscious of parents' concern over the amount of 'screen time' that is involved with this learning. You will hopefully find that some of the work set involves the children carrying out tasks that are creative, practical and away from a computer, laptop or tablet.

There is also the issue for some families accessing any technology in order to go online, having limited access due to having more than one child at home or for parents who need to use a computer, laptop or tablet because they are working from home at this time.

In the meantime, to help ease this problem staff are putting together new learning packs for children to complete. The packs will cover English, Maths and Topic work and can be collected from school from Friday 1st May 2020. We will be sending out times for year groups packs to be picked up so that social distancing is not affected.

Should you wish to have a new home learning pack we ask that you complete the **online form** (accessible on the School App, Twitter and PAWS Facebook) indicating your child's name, year group and how you will collect it. If you are unable to pick up a pack, please let us know and we will find a way to get it to you.

Mental Health

We are concerned how COVID 19 and the lockdown is affecting people emotionally and mentally. The essential restrictions in place are limiting how we are going about our daily lives and impacting on us personally. Not being able to do the things that are essential to us, such as meeting with other family members, relatives and friends can result in us feeling alone. For the children this can be a huge challenge.

To help we have put a folder on the website called 'Looking After Yourself and Others'. We are looking at putting into this folder ideas, information and resources that you may find to be helpful now and in the future. Once again if you need any support, in terms of your or your child's emotional and mental health, please contact the school.

Free School Meals

Hopefully families who are entitled to Free School Meals will have received vouchers. These have been set up through a company called Wonde. We apologise if there has been any delay in these vouchers reaching you and hope the shops have been happy to accept them.

The new government national scheme will soon be replacing these vouchers. It is being coordinated with a company called Edenred. We will inform parents at the point that we move from Wonde to Edenred vouchers and hope that the transition is seamless.

Once again for those families who not entitled to Free School Meals but are struggling financially and need support with food purchases, you may wish to consider the following:

- **Feeding Birkenhead, Supporting Wirral, Wirral Foodbank** part of an Emergency Food Hub, managed by Wirral Council.
- The Wirral Coronavirus Helpline (0151 666 5050, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm).
- www.wirralinfobank.co.uk for details of shopping and delivery services provided by community groups in their local area.
- **Infobank** also has a list of social supermarkets in Wirral.
- The **social supermarket at the Carr Bridge Centre is open 10 -2 on Tuesdays and Thursdays**
- www.wirral.gov.uk/benefits-and-money/local-welfare-assistance

If you need any help with anything mentioned in this letter, or have any queries please contact the school and someone will try and help. I also ask that if you know of any of our families who are struggling that you let us know so that we can help them out. Any information will have treated in strictest confidence. The school remains open to provide child care for the children of parents and carers who are '**key workers**'. However, we are also here should you need any help or support. Just pick up the phone or drop us an email.

Please look out for anything that school sends through the school Twitter feed and website, and the PAWS Facebook page. If you have not already seen it, there is a 'celebration assembly video' that staff did on the 6th April. There will be another 'celebration assembly video' going out next week, so 'watch this space'.

On behalf of everyone at Woodchurch C.E. Primary School I send all children, parents, carers and families our good wishes and hope you remain safe and hopeful of an end to the lockdown. To all those key workers on the frontline we send you our praise and thanks for all you are doing to care for people and keep us all safe.

Finally, to those families who have been directly affected by the virus you are in our thoughts and prayers at this time. Look after yourselves.

With kind regards

B.McGregor
Headteacher