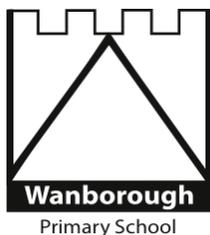


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26th February 2021

Dear Parents

I apologise now for the numerous links I've added below, but there has been a lot of information being updated this week and at least you know they are there for future reference – it isn't a homework task to read them all over the weekend!

With the children coming back to school, we have a story you might want to share with your child or children that has been recommended to us by our Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA) Ms Hingley. It might help explain and reassure children about where we are and why we have to keep doing certain things to keep us all safe.

<https://www.elsa-support.co.uk/back-to-school-after-coronavirus-story/>

Other recently updated resources for parents include:

DfE guidance for parents on the re-opening of schools which is available on the following link.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-covid-19>

DfE guidance on children working safely online (a lot of the content/links are arguably more relevant to older children, but we have to accept these issues can be appropriate to primary age children too, therefore it's worth knowing about):
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-parents-and-carers-to-keep-children-safe-online?utm_source=25%20February%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

Finally, I will draw to your attention again DfE advice regarding the mental health and wellbeing of children:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>



Returning to school on March 8th:

As indicated earlier in the week, we are aiming to carry on from where we left off in January with all the arrangements for children and parents remaining the same. This includes the requirement for children to attend school, classes operating as their own bubbles, no assemblies /gatherings, school uniform required, seating arrangements and use of equipment to remain the same, staggered breaks, same classes eating in the hall/classrooms, wearing of PE kits on PE days and no face-to-face meetings with parents/visitors.

Staff are prepared for the social and emotional adjustments that will be taking place; as in September, we intend to give the children opportunities to settle back into the routines and enjoyment of being back in school.

In regards to the teaching of the curriculum, once again the Teachers will observe and informally assess where the children are during the remainder of this term. Individual, group and cohort interventions will be delivered alongside the targeted teaching of key skills and knowledge across all subjects in the curriculum. Any children unable to attend school due to isolation will be able to complete work remotely if they are well enough to do so.

For staff there is new guidance on wearing face coverings in communal areas, ventilation and close contact definitions. For Primary School children they should not wear face coverings at any time during the school day, other than travelling to or from school.

Next week I will be sending to all parents and staff a reminder of the safety measures we have in place, which thus far have seen the school manage to operate successfully throughout this pandemic. We certainly can't take that for granted though, so I would appreciate all parents talking to their children about the importance of following these measures in preparation for their return.

New and exciting Erasmus project:

With the hope that the return to school will allow for some normality in the future, we are excited about the beginning of our latest Erasmus funded project called 'Small Steps to a Better World'. This project will be raising our awareness and understanding of environmental and climate goals, in collaboration with our French partner school, Ecole du Lac. Mrs Hayden will be leading the project across the school, and we look forward to the activities, workshops, education and enjoyment these will provide for all our stakeholders and the wider community. Whilst the Erasmus scheme is being replaced due to the UK leaving the European Union, we have been guaranteed funding for 2020-2022 to enable this to happen.

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Drury
Headteacher

