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Dear Parents and Carers

A brief update today...

As you know next week is Well-Being week. I've attached a document (a larger version of this picture) outlining lots of non-screen activities for the children to try next week (or indeed at any time!) It's hard being in front of a screen for a lot of the day so I hope this will prove useful to you all.



You may have heard on the news that schools may be returning on 8th March. We really hope that is true although we would love to be back sooner. I will of course let you know if I receive any further information.

Please look at the information about 'Immersive Reader' which I have added to the regular items at the end of the update. It's a support tool for being able to hear written text 'out loud' – it's really useful – and it works! I've also added a section about keeping safe online.

Birthdays this week:

You may remember that Rev Tony moved away quite a while ago. We have a new Rector called Rev Jules Harris, but due to lockdown and restrictions this last year, she hasn't been able to come into school to meet us. She has however kindly sent a video of a Collective Worship for the children based on the Lord's Prayer. The children will be able to watch on Teams and Tapestry next week.



On-Site Provision

The number of pupils in school at the moment is steadily rising and bubble sizes are increasing. I again kindly ask Critical Worker parents to use the school facility only if they need to as we want to minimise the number of people on site each day if we can. The most recent government update reiterated the following:

'Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required, but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.'

Keeping Safe Online

E-Safety is regularly taught in school to all pupils explaining and demonstrating how to stay safe and behave appropriately online. We want to support parents during this period of Lockdown so here are some useful Safeguarding Links for parents

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

[http://www.childnet.com/blog/a-parents-guide-to-fortnite-battle-](http://www.childnet.com/blog/a-parents-guide-to-fortnite-battle-royale)

[royale https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/)

We encourage parents to have conversations with their child about online safety and be aware of how they can build their child's resiliency to online content, encourage open conversations about online life and ensure children know they can talk to their parents/guardians about it.

Report Harmful Content has helpful content to support children who have seen something upsetting online

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/advice-parents-what-do-if-your-child-sees-something-upsetting-online>

Support for Reading on 'Teams'

Immersive Reader is a learning tool that provides a full screen reading experience to increase readability. It can be used to read the teacher's morning messages, assignment instructions and word documents using the office 365 apps

All the Office 365 apps are available to all students by logging into office www.office.com with their own username and password.

Immersive Reader lets you:

- Change font size, text spacing, and background colour.
- Split up words into syllables.
- Highlight verbs, nouns, adjectives and sub-clauses.
- Choose between two fonts optimised to help with reading.
- Read out text aloud, and change the speed of reading.

[How to Use Microsoft Immersive Reader to make Office 365 Accessible - YouTube](#)

Communication

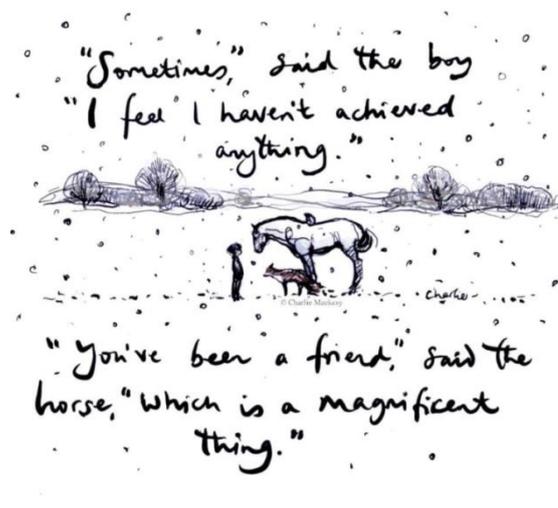
- For issues other than home learning or if the email is personally confidential or a safeguarding concern then please use the office email as usual.
- In these anxious times I will be checking the office emails myself once each day at the weekend for any urgent safeguarding issues or if symptoms or a positive case of COVID-19 is reported amongst the in-school community. Non-urgent emails will be picked up on Monday morning as usual.

Home Learning

- We are still seeing a good response on Teams which is great. If you are experiencing any technical issues, then please contact us and we will try and help you.
- As instructed in the government guidance we must monitor engagement with remote learning. We will be sensitively contacting you if there has been no apparent home-learning done yet, not in a negative way or to pressurise any parent but to support and to offer help if necessary. Please contact us if you are experiencing any difficulties. We know how daunting this can seem, especially if parents are trying to juggle working at home and helping with home learning. Please get in touch with us if you need support.

Keeping Safe on Teams.

- Please do supervise your child on TEAMS where possible, and definitely in any live session
- Teams activity is monitored daily by members of SLT
- If you need to speak to a teacher about any aspects of remote learning, then I ask you kindly please use the home learning email home.learning@kcs.bwmat.org *FAO class teacher* rather than the online chat or the office email please.
- The online chat is a platform that can be seen by all the children and should only be used by the children for greetings/children to talk to the teacher or to each other about specific learning tasks or to ask for support/feedback/guidance (for younger pupils' parents may of course need to type their comments for them).
- Children and parents should not upload any documents/resources/advice/issues to the online chat. If this happens, we will delete them as you will appreciate that it is the teachers' role to do this.
- If we deem any use of the chat by parents or children as inappropriate or unsuitable, then those messages will be removed as soon as is possible, as they are on view to the whole class, and we reserve the right to withdraw the chat function for your child if we have further concerns.
- Staff will respond to the children as quickly as they can on the Teams chat - bear with them as they need breaks of course and they are also on rota in school with our 3 key worker bubbles.
- Parents have been sent guidelines and a permission slip for pupils to attend any live sessions- these must be returned to school before we can admit pupils to live sessions.



Take care and God Bless

Mrs Thomson
Headteacher