

The government announcement on the evening before the first day of term may have brought disappointment as we all wanted to be back in school, however, we must do anything we can to reduce the risk of Covid-19. We were delighted to start live sessions/lessons early in the first week and to be in regular contact is wonderful. Working in this way is new to us all, but by supporting and regularly communicating with one another, we can continue your child's learning. Please let us know if we can help in any way and please look after yourself.

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS - SELF-ISOLATION



Should your child, or any member of the household (or anyone your child may have been in contact with) display any symptoms of Covid-19, please do not bring them into school until any self-isolation period is fully complete. Should anyone in the household develop symptoms, please arrange a test as soon as possible. If your child has been in school the days prior to the test, or the days prior to the symptoms beginning, please let us know so we can follow our necessary procedures to minimise risk. If your child has been in school at any point this term and is now self-isolating, again, please let us know.

Please stay safe.

A LITTLE HELPING HAND WITH MEALS

During this period, we understand that many families may have experienced a change in circumstances. Whichever year group your child is in, if you think that you may now be eligible for income-based Free School Meals, we would urge you to submit an application. This also applies to children who currently receive a lunch due to being in Reception, or Years 1 and 2. During this period of school closure, children who are eligible to receive income-based Free School Meals will have the option of receiving a hamper with food for a week's worth of lunches, or at a

later date, possibly vouchers* (*to be confirmed).

To find out if you are eligible, or to apply for this additional support, please visit: www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Educational-awards-benefits/FreeSchoolMeals

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOOOUUUUUUUU!

We may not all be together in school at the moment, but please join us in sharing our 'Happy Birthday' wishes (in our best singing voices) with the following members of the school family who celebrate a birthday between 4th January and today (15th January). Happy Birthday: Sophia C., Alfred, Izzy, Kenzie, Molly, Bella-Rose, Madison W., Tiffany, Sam and Mr Casey.



ADVICE ON HOW TO KEEP YOUR CHILD SAFE ONLINE

As you may now be using online devices on a daily basis to support learning, or perhaps your child has received a Playstation, Xbox, Nintendo Switch, tablet, laptop, mobile phone etc for Christmas, we are sure that you will agree that it is essential your child is safe in the online world. Therefore, we wanted to share some e-safety advice.

6 essentials to keep your children safe online

Follow this list to help keep your children safe online:

Use parental controls to block upsetting or harmful content, control in-app purchases, or manage how long your child spends online. They're really easy to set up too. More information about setting controls on mobiles, tablets, home broadband, games consoles, apps, wifi, films, music and TV is on the <u>NSPCC web pages</u>, (<u>www.nspcc.org.uk</u>) and there's a useful helpline number too.

Regularly remind your children not to give out personal information, like their address, phone number, school name or email address. It can be easy to forget with live streaming videos (like YouTube) that <u>anyone</u> could be watching, and it's important not to give away too much information about themselves.

Get to know the games, apps and social media sites they use. Learn how to use them yourself and how their 'privacy', 'block' and 'reporting' settings work.

Make sure they know that people aren't always who they say they are online and that they don't accept friend requests from people they don't know (even if the person has mutual friends, it doesn't mean they can be trusted).

Talk about the risks of sharing photos online or sending them to others. Once they're out there, they're out there!

Let them know that you're listening and want to know if anything at all makes them feel uncomfortable online, no matter what.

Please also make yourself aware of the age restriction of certain social media platforms, for example **Whatsapp is for 16+, Snapchat is for 13+,** and **TikTok is for 13+.**

Please also be aware of the content of online gaming, for example, Fortnite is rated as suitable for 12+.

These controls are to there to simply keep your child safe in the online world.

Need to know more?

These are the places you can find good advice and guidance:

<u>NSPCC</u> (<u>www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-</u> <u>controls/</u>)great for easy-to-follow parental control guides and knowing what to talk about; <u>Think u know</u> (<u>www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents</u>) great if you're concerned, need to understand social media or are worried about online abuse;

<u>Staffordshire Police</u> (https://www.staffordshire.police.uk/police-forces/staffordshire-police/

areas/staffordshire-police/campaigns/2019/cyber-bullying/) explains cyber bullying and online harassment;

internetmatters (www.internetmatters.org) great for cyberbullying advice;

<u>CEOP Child exploitation and online protection command (www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre)</u> - if you suspect abuse report it to one of their specialist advisers now.

Advice on keeping children safe can also be found on our school website, www.tmpf.staffs.sch.uk

We hope you find the above information useful, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact a member of staff.



STAYING SAFE ON THE ROADS

As much of our exercise is now limited to going for a walk and it is dark fairly early in the evening, it's important to **Be Bright and Be Seen** when you are out and about near roads.

BE BRIGHT – wear fluorescent or brightly coloured clothing when exercising or walking to and from school – it shows up well in daylight and at dusk.

REFLECTIVE – When it's dark outside, wear reflective clothing to be seen in car headlights. Reflective vests, sashes or wristbands work well.

IMPROVE – improve your visibility with accessories, clip-on reflectors, armbands and stickers added to your coat or bag are a great way to improve your visibility.

GREEN CROSS CODE – always choose routes and crossing places that are well lit and remember to use the Green Cross Code.

HEADLIGHTS – if you like to cycle, it's the law to have clean and working headlights on your bike at night (white at the front, red at the back) and a rear reflector. It's good to fit spoke reflectors too.

FROST, ICE AND SNOW ...WHICH WAY TO GO!



In the event of any icy/snowy conditions please use only the <u>cleared pathways</u> for both entrances. To help

maintain social distancing, please allow space for others to pass on the gritted area. If you also have a child at Kingsley Kingfishers and usually access school through the car park gate (Reception and Years 1 and 2), in the event of ice or snow, please use the front/main gate as a path will be cleared from here to the Kingfishers' entrance.

In the unusual (and rare!) event that we have to close due to health and safety issues caused by snow or ice, we will endeavour to contact you through text message and also aim to also put a message on the school website (www.tmpf.staffs.sch.uk).

Please remember NOT to walk across the school car park as this is not open to parents/carers and is also <u>not gritted</u>. Wrap up warm and remember your cosy hat! We now have a text messaging service for parents/carers of children aged 0-19 who live in Staffordshire.

Get advice from our Public Health nurses (Health Visitors and School Nurses).

TEXT: 07520 615722



THANK YOU AND STAY SAFE

Following the government decision to close schools to all children other than those classed as vulnerable, or who have parent as a 'Critical Worker', we have been happy to be able to see most children on a daily basis through our Microsoft Teams lessons/ sessions or right here in the classroom.

We would like to thank you for the brilliant work you are doing in supporting your child's learning in such challenging times. We know it can be tough, and perhaps sometimes a little frustrating, so please do let us know if there are ways in which we can help. By following the guidelines and staying at home wherever possible, we can each play our part in the global effort to reduce the spread of Covid-19.

May we finish this newsletter with an enormous **thank you** for the messages of support and the thoughtful gestures which we have received over the past two weeks at what is a challenging time for us all.

Please, please stay safe.

...love one another





