



29 April 2020

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you and your families continue to be safe and well as this period of distancing continues.

### **Keeping in touch**

It has been lovely to be in touch with so many of you over the past week to find out how you are and to see how work at home is going. You should expect a phone call once every week as well as messages from your teacher giving suggested work and learning activities, you might get these on different days each week as our teachers timetables switch between working at home, providing childcare and contacting families. If there is anything you need to get in touch about, please continue to call or email the school office and we will try to help as best we can.

### **Home learning**

Thank you so much for the wonderful pictures and videos of the children's work that we have received, it is a tremendous encouragement to see such an interesting variety of activities going on. There is no expectation that you complete everything sent home each week, any activity done is a win as everyone's circumstances are different. Sometimes you just don't get as much done as you'd planned and sometimes you've got time to explore more. If you are ever at a loss for what to do, I would encourage you to look back at the learning links sent on 20<sup>th</sup> March and 22<sup>nd</sup> April for ideas, these are on our website. We are here to offer advice and support for home learning and once again, a huge thank you for all of your efforts in this area.

### **Online safety**

The government has published new advice to help people, particularly children, stay safe online during the coronavirus outbreak. The guidance follows work between the

[government and child safety organisations](#) to assess the impact of coronavirus on child online safety and bolster ways of working together to protect children.

With more people than ever working from home and many children using the internet for education and entertainment, there are increased risks of exposure to online harms such as cyberbullying and disinformation. The guidance sets out a four-point plan and recommends reviewing security and safety settings, checking facts and guarding against disinformation, being vigilant against fraud and scams, and managing the amount of time spent online.

The guidance can be found at: [www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-staying-safe-online](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-staying-safe-online)

### **Online Courses for Parents**

Warwickshire County Council is providing free online courses for parents. These tried and tested courses, created with the NHS, help parents to understand more about their child. Go to <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/parentguides>, select which course you are interested in and use the access code BEAR.

The NSPCC have also created resources to help parents. Topics include:

- Talking to a child worried about coronavirus
- Parents working from home
- Children staying home alone
- Lockdown and separated parents
- How to cope with tantrums and other difficult behaviour

The advice can be found on the [NSPCC website here](#).

### **Educational Psychologists**

Warwickshire Educational Psychology Service (EPS) is offering direct access telephone consultations to parents and carers who feel they may benefit from a discussion with an Educational Psychologist during the Covid-19 pandemic. See attached flyer. To book, call 01926 742921 or email [eps@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:eps@warwickshire.gov.uk)

## **Video calls guidance**

Something which has increased for all of us during this time is our use of video calling and it has become really important as we connect with family and friends. There are however a couple safety and security considerations when lots of people are involved so we have taken the decision not to set up live video calls for whole classes. Our video communication for everyone is pre-recorded so you can stay connected and watch it again.

## **After the storm...**

You will have seen an abundance of 'rainbow' imagery in recent weeks as a collective symbol for the hope we have, looking forward to when this difficult time is over. In the Bible, God uses this powerful symbol to remind his people of his good promises. The wonderfully talented Miss Coulson has created our very own St Gabriel's rainbow picture. [You can watch it here](#) and look forward to the good things to come!

As always, thank you for all you are doing to support the children and each other at this time. Stay safe and remember we are here if you need us.

Yours sincerely,



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