



We break up for half-term at 3:20pm on THURSDAY 11th February and return to school on Monday 22nd February.

Take Care

The realities that you all face as parents/carers are challenging. We are fortunate to have lots of communication with you through Dojo, email or phone calls and the frustration and tiredness is obvious. Many staff are feeling the same as they are trying to organise home learning for their own children whilst also trying to teach both in school and provide online content.

We want you to be reassured that we know what you are trying to achieve and understand that we do not live in an ideal world so sometimes you will need to say enough is enough and we are going to do something together as a family instead of staring at screens. You, like us, will have seen numerous people from both sides of the political divide saying that children are 'falling behind' in their education.

Our question would be falling behind who and in what way? The decision about what a young person needs to know and by what age has constantly changed each time the government changes; when some of us older ones (me) went to school the national curriculum didn't even exist! The teaching of deeper subject content will increase as soon as we can have our wonderful young people back in and we will 'catch up' where we need to. Trust us. The things that are being missed that make us the saddest are the trips out, the sports fixtures, the drama performances, the socialisation with friends and all of the joy that comes along with being a young person going through school life.

Right now, we all just need to manage as best we can; remembering that your best does not need to be compared to anyone else.

The news after half term should hopefully start to be more positive and that will make a massive difference to how we all feel.

Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 9th February marks Safer Internet Day 2021! This year in the UK, Safer Internet Day explores reliability online. The internet has an amazing range of information and opportunities online, but how do we separate fact from fiction?

Safer Internet Day will be celebrated globally with the theme: An internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world – Watch out for linked activities in your home learning tasks.

Laptops

We do still have some laptops available to support home learning and would like to invite applications from any families who would like to enter into a loan agreement with the school.

All loans will be free of charge but parents will have to sign a Loan Agreement accepting liability for any damage to, or loss of, the computers and will have to agree to our 'Acceptable Use Policy'.

If you feel that your child would benefit from the loan of a computer, please message Mrs Prince (c.prince@werrington.staffs.sch.uk)

Paper packs are now available for families who require them – Please contact your child's teacher to request them. They will need to be collected from school on a weekly basis.

Thank you for your patience

At present we have 147 children attending school. Due to the very high number, every single member of our teaching and learning staff is actively engaged in teaching children in the school building – This will mean that they may not be able to respond to messages as quickly as usual.

Polite Reminder

If your child is attending school, please adhere to the following:

- Visiting adults **MUST** wear a mask within the school grounds
- Everyone **MUST** adhere to our one-way system – The only point of entry to the school is the pedestrian gate at the main entrance. The only exit points are the gateway by the Co-op and the gateway by the Werrington Library.
- If your child has been offered a place in school, only send them in on the days when you cannot keep them at home.
- Where possible, encourage your child to make their own way into school from the entry point. If an adult does need to accompany a child into the school grounds, it must be one adult only per family.

Any person not adhering to the above, risks having their offer of a school place removed.

8 WAYS TO HELP CHILDREN STRUGGLING DURING LOCKDOWN

1

Know how to spot the signs

If you notice your child is becoming withdrawn, that there's been a change in sleeping or eating habits, if they seem to lack confidence or get upset, it might be a sign they're struggling.



2

Talk to your child

If you spot signs your child might be struggling, it's important to talk to them. Keep talking and trying to communicate in any way you can - hugging, listening to them, texting them.



3

Create structure and routine

Try introducing a rota or loose timetable that includes fun things you're doing during the week. This can help to create a feeling of stability, which can alleviate anxiety.



4

Give children a sense of control through information

Look online with your children to find useful information and resources that help children feel they have control.



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5

Keep children learning



Using fun and creative ways at home to learn alongside continued access to educational opportunities will support your children's development.



6

Limit screen time and mix up activities



As most socialising moves online, it's important to have conversations on how an increase in screen time can have an impact on everyone's mental health and self-esteem.



7

Help your child manage stress



If you spot signs your child might be struggling, it's important to talk to them. Keep talking and trying to communicate in any way you can - hugging, listening to them, texting them, etc.



8

Expressing feelings doesn't have to be face-to-face



Children might find it easier writing their thoughts down, so the whole family could do this and put them in a 'feelings box' and then talk about their good, sad or difficult feelings at the end of the day.

