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Friday 5th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

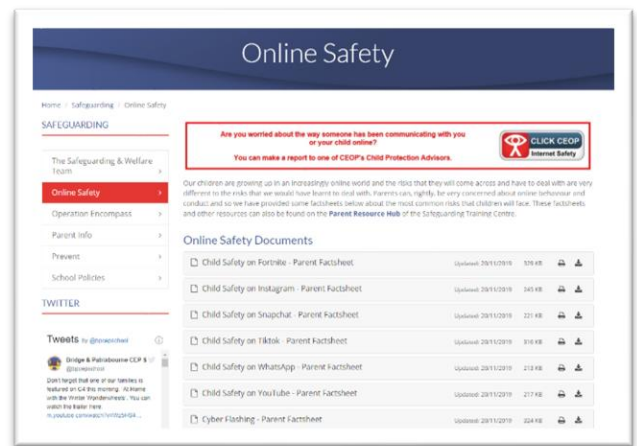
Over the course of the week, we've been holding parental consultations and the overwhelming feedback we're getting from parents is that they're happy with how things are going but, as we reach the end of term, children are beginning to struggle a bit.

These are difficult times for all of us and we're all trying to balance work and home (not always successfully). I would just remind parents that it's ok to give yourselves (and your children) a break and not to put too undue pressure on your family. With the upcoming half-term, it will be even more important to 'down tools' and try and spend time as a family without the pressures of home-schooling.

Social Media/Online Safety

Over the past few weeks, I've had a few concerns shared with me about children on social media and ensuring that they are able to keep safe online. The latest one 'doing the rounds' seems to be TikTok.

Year 6 parents in particular, please ensure that you have had a conversation with your child about whether or not they are on any social media platform. My personal opinion is that they shouldn't be at this age (*can't wait for that conversation with my daughter!*) but this is a decision for each family to make and I would be a lot more comfortable if I knew that a child was on social media but that their parent was aware and was monitoring its use.



There is information and resources available to parents on our [Online Safety](#) pages of the school website.

February Half-Term Holiday Club

Last call for anyone who wishes to book Holiday Club over the half-term break. Details were emailed via ParentMail last week.

Remote Learning Survey

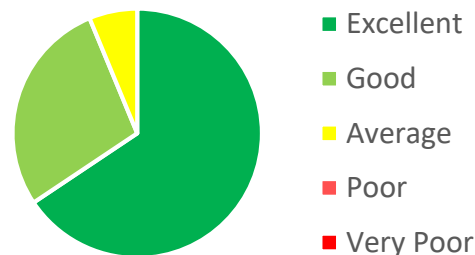
Thank you everyone who completed the Remote Learning Survey which was sent out last week. I've been looking through the feedback and comments today and feel that they are, on the whole, a fair reflection of what we feel as a school. I have pulled out some highlights below but please be assured that every comment will be read by the leadership team and by the school governors.



How would you 'rate' the level of school support over the course of this lockdown?

I'm very pleased and proud to see that the most common response was 'excellent' and that no one felt that our response was below 'average'.

Some of you wrote comments highlighting particular individuals and I know you'll be pleased to know that I have shared these comments with the individuals in question.



What positive aspects would you like to highlight?

There were a lot of positive comments here and I've pulled out those with commonalities between them. Unsurprisingly, about half of all parents commented upon the success of the 'live sessions' with most appreciating the social and emotional benefit as well as the impact on children's engagement in learning.

There were also a lot of positive comments about the range of curriculum areas covered as well and I'd like to take this opportunity to particularly thank Mrs C Smith, Mr Miles, Mrs Brookes, Stewart and Laura for providing pre-planned sessions in art, music, singing, tennis and dance respectively.

Whilst I'm not the greatest fan of work books, we recognised that given the circumstances that they would be a useful resource for parents supporting their children's learning at home and I'm pleased that you've found these helpful.

Live sessions maintained children's social and academic engagement.

Good variety and quality of other curriculum areas: Dance, PE, Art, etc.

Useful to have workbooks provided

Timetable provided structure to the day

Quick and useful feedback from class teachers

Communication with school leaders

What could we have done differently/better?

The vast majority of the comments here related to specific circumstances and it wouldn't be appropriate to share them all but, as above, I have pulled out some comments with appeared in more than 5% of cases, i.e. 3 times or more.

There were six respondents who felt that a greater number of live sessions would have been preferable. This was an area which we discussed when devising our Remote Learning Protocols in November but decided that this would place increased time pressures on the majority of our families as well as having a significant impact on the workload of our teaching staff.

The only other area which was highlighted was the 'learning curve' in using Teams. Whilst some Teams training was provided to staff, nothing replicates actually using it on a day-to-day basis and I would like to think that this has improved over the course of the lockdown. Many of the issues that have arisen have been flagged up to us and we have managed to resolve these. Some are, sadly, out of our control – a prime example of this is the ability to use the calendar functionality to keep track of the sessions.

Any Other Comments

"You have undoubtedly heard many 'thank yous' and 'much appreciated' over the months, and as a keyworker so have I, but I can't stress how essential your work is, allowing us to focus on what we need to do to manage the pandemic and one cannot work without the other, so thank you for allowing us to work as a team!"

"I'm not going to lie, have found it quite tricky to keep up with the level of work set for both children whilst running a business and entertaining a 3 year old! But I feel like the children are definitely progressing and that makes it worth it. I feel like the teachers and leadership team have done a fantastic job with the videos and lesson structure. Having the reading book swaps has been great also."

"We are so grateful for the online live lessons, it has made such a difference to [name] and lockdown in general. During the first lockdown he didn't want to do any school work and getting him to engage was a battle. This time he is happy to do his work and has taken it upon himself to get organised before each lesson. Thank you."

"Despite all the efforts of the school, my daughter misses the school very much. We are looking forward to the 8th of March that the children can meet all in class."

This last comment is particularly poignant. We are all missing the children and a sense of 'normal' and sincerely hope that Monday 8th March brings with it a slow but steady return to normality.

Thank you for your comments and feedback.

Have a good weekend.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Tibbles". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James Tibbles
Headteacher