



HEADTEACHER

Mr B. Heeley B.Ed Hons, NPQH

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you will be aware, we await further information from the government regarding proposals to ease the Lockdown and the possible partial reopening of schools. Although we have been completing some preliminary planning, we are hoping that any announcement over the coming weekend will shed more light on the ways forward. Please be assured that once we have any information, we will inform you as soon as is possible of arrangements to restart as an education setting.

I have included in the email this week the latest guidance from the government regarding Key Worker status and parents and carers who are Key Workers utilising the childcare provision offered by the school. Please take some time to read the information and access the full list. It is clear that the government still regard keeping your child at home as the best option however, if this is not possible, we will continue to offer childcare provision. I will contact you next week regarding this and to clarify the procedures for registering your child for childcare. In the meantime, any child of a Key Worker needing childcare must be booked into school for the days that the care is needed. Children should not simply turn up – for children of verified Key Workers a place will be allocated. This ensures that we correctly allocate places and safeguard those in our care. Thank you for your support with this.

PPE Update

Since the new raw materials arrived in school last week our design and technology staff have continued to manufacture protective visors for frontline care providers. Last week Mr Milton and his team produced:

- 100 visors for Bowmere Hospital Chester
- 50 visors for Allandale Care Group
- 50 visors for Southport and Aintree Hospital

Please let us know if you are working in this sector and would benefit from the visors. Whilst raw materials exist we will try to offer some support. Thank you to Mr Milton and the DT team.

Home Learning

It is great to see so many of our students engaging with our learning tasks. Details of the work set can be found on our Resource Hub <https://sites.google.com/whitbyhs.cheshire.sch.uk/twhs-resource-hub/home> under 'subject resources'. You can also see a sample of brilliant work on our online noticeboard <https://en-gb.padlet.com/lbegbie/homelearning> and we'd love to see more. Students can add their work by clicking on the pink cross in the corner of the screen.

We are very aware that for many households, this is very challenging time for a variety of reasons. We are also aware that students will be able to complete different amounts of learning, again, for a variety of reasons. Please be assured that we do understand, and we do not want to add additional pressures. You know your children best. Please encourage them to access the work as best they can for a reasonable amount of time. Based on your feedback (thank you for this) I have asked teachers just to put details of work on the Resource Hub and to reduce the amount of emails coming to students. I have also asked them to make sure that the tasks have clear deadlines and instructions.

The Open Eye Gallery Collaborative Work

You will be aware that for over two years we have been collaborating with The Open Eye Gallery in Liverpool. This collaboration led by Mrs Parr from our art and photography department, has been an astounding success and produced photographic work of a quality not usually seen in school. Our talented students' work has been exhibited in the prestigious gallery alongside the work of world renowned photographers and has never looked out of place. The latest work entitled "Belonging" has now been put into print and although we do not have printed copies as yet please take a look at the work by following the link below. The work which represents our students' perceptions of "belonging" offers a glimpse into their thoughts and the community around them. Well done to all our students and particularly to Mrs Parr and her team.

https://issuu.com/openeyegallery/docs/belonging_-_final_design_-_single_pages

[Belonging — Exploring Photography as a Collaborative Tool in Gallery Education by Open Eye Gallery - Issuu](#)

Former Whitby High School RE Teacher Scoops Top Quiz Prize

Last week we saw former teacher at The Whitby High School, Mrs Jean Banford test her knowledge against the country's best quiz mind on the TV game show "Beat the Chasers". Jean who is also a former student of the school beat all five "chasers" and scooped a fantastic prize of £100k. Congratulations to Jean and I wish her well for the future.

Mental Health Support

Please see the following links and attachments for schools during the lockdown period. The Mental Health Crisis telephone line is provided by CWP and is accessible 24/7.

The myHappyMind Light programme is a free resource for all primary schools and is also available for Early Years settings. The attached impact report and school leaflet are from myHappyMind, which is the emotional health and wellbeing platform currently being piloted in 24 Primary Schools in West Cheshire.

Schools registration link: <https://myhappymind.org/light-enquiry>

Careers

Miss Connor will continue to forward any information which is useful to students using their school email. Please make sure your child checks this regularly. Some information e.g. about events may need prompt attention. Miss Connor will also send the information to Form Tutors and House staff so they are aware of what is on offer. If there are students, especially in Year 11, 12 and 13 who need Careers advice would they please email Miss Connor with their name, school email address, contact number (if they prefer) and permission to pass this info on to our Careers Adviser.

Key workers who can send their children into school. (Government latest)

As a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. That is why the government has given clear guidance on [self-isolation](#), [household isolation](#) and [social distancing](#).

And the most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. **If children can stay safely at home, they must**, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.

That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.

It is important to underline that schools, all childcare settings (including early years settings, childminders and providers of childcare for school-age children), colleges and other educational establishments, remain safe places for children. But the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

Schools, and all childcare providers, are therefore being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable, and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

Vulnerable children include children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with [education, health and care \(EHC\) plans](#).

We know that schools will also want to support other children facing social difficulties, and we will support head teachers to do so.

Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined below. Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. And every child who can be safely cared for at home must be.

Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

- 1.If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they must be.
- 2.If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.
- 3.Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.
- 4.Parents must also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They must observe the same social distancing principles as adults.
- 5.If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision:

In general terms Key Workers can fall into the following categories. Please follow the link below for the specific roles that are regarded as Key Worker roles.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision?utm_source=87e893cd-2a96-451e-aa06-24e9fbc70101&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

We are grateful for the work of teachers and workers in educational settings for continuing to provide for the children of the other critical workers of our country. It is an essential part of our national effort to combat this disease.

Department for Education Coronavirus Helpline – Friday 8 May Bank Holiday - Opening Hours

The Department for Education Coronavirus Helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children’s social care.

Phone: 0800 046 8687

The helpline will remain open over the early May Bank Holiday weekend for staff, parents and young people as follows:

10am to 4pm – Friday, Saturday and Sunday

Our standard opening hours will resume on Monday 11 May:

8am to 6pm – Monday to Friday

10am to 4pm – Saturday and Sunday

If you work in a school, please have your unique reference number (URN or UK PRN) available when calling the helpline.

Handwashing Advice

It is essential that everyone washes their hands more often, using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand washing with soap employs mechanical action that loosens bacteria and viruses from the skin, rinsing them into the drain. Drying hands afterwards makes the skin less hospitable to the virus. Hand sanitiser can be effective if soap is not available or the situation makes using soap less feasible (i.e. when outside) but using hand sanitiser provides none of the virus-destroying friction that rubbing your hands together and rinsing with water provides.

The latest guidance and video on hand washing can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

The e-Bug project is led by Public Health England and has a dedicated webpage for learning resources on hand washing and respiratory hygiene.

Resources are currently available for KS1, KS2 and KS3 and can be used in various settings including schools and at home:

<https://e-bug.eu/>

Collection of guidance for educational settings on GOV.UK

All of the Department for Education’s coronavirus guidance for educational settings can now be found in one place on GOV.UK at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-schools-and-other-educational-settings>

Our main schools' guidance, the 'actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak' will be regularly kept up to date. Any new advice for schools on specific issues, such as food, exams or safeguarding, will be linked from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures>

Thank you for your continued support.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

Mr B Heeley
Headteacher