



# Church Hill Infants News

Newsletter November 2020

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## Message from Mrs Bulsara

It is a very busy and eventful half term with lots of events and celebrations to learn about this month. Despite the ongoing disruption to life as we know it, school continues to be a haven for our children and a place where they can thrive, socialise and have positive experiences which support their wellbeing. I have been delighted with how engaged and motivated they have been with their learning and their general attitude towards their work has been spectacular. Our recent virtual parents evening meetings were very successful—thank you for the lovely comments about how well the children are settling and enjoying being in school.

Going forward, it will without doubt be a tricky few weeks leading up to Christmas and it remains very important for our children to attend school, to support their wellbeing and education and help working parents and guardians. It is however very likely that classes and/ or bubbles could be affected with the increase of positive Covid cases rising during the lockdown period. The school will put every effort into keeping school open but this could mean at times that your child may not be taught by their normal teacher as we have a number of staff who are now having to shield or isolate. The efforts of our whole school team have been phenomenal; with increased cleaning and ensuring bubbles can continue to distance from others to reduce transmission of the virus. I am sure our parents will appreciate that keeping school open in the current lockdown situation is no mean feat and being in school is the right thing for our children. We will always try to make the right decisions for our school but please do bear with us if we have to make last minute staffing changes.

Finally, thank you to the parents who have supported the school with all the new procedures, it really has helped to keep our school safe and avoid unnecessary bubble closures. We understand that advice does keep changing and can be a little confusing so please do contact us via studybugs if you would like to discuss a Covid related matter.

This half term will come with new challenges but by working together we will get through this difficult time.

Mrs Bulsara

## Remote Learning

Details of our remote learning offer were emailed to parents last week.



We will continue to use our Remote Learning platform, Seesaw during all of the above scenarios and will provide work in a variety of ways. This may take the form of pre-recorded videos, worksheets and physical activities. Please ensure you have logged onto seesaw and if you are having difficulty contact the school office through our Studybugs messaging service

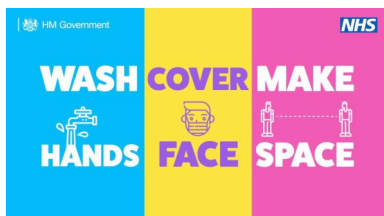


We will also provide daily live catch-up and feedback sessions to children. These will take the form of at least one short video call each day to have face to face time with pupils. The live sessions will be via Microsoft teams, you will be sent an invite to these sessions every morning.

**Please ensure you have downloaded Microsoft Teams APP on the device you wish to use for remote learning. (This is the same APP we used for parents' evening)**



## Covid Safety - National restrictions from 5 November



We will continue to update our parents as and when new guidance is issued. All current Covid-19 updates can be found on our website (on the Covid tab). It is extremely important that all members of our school community follow current guidance to keep you, your family and friends as safe as possible.

On Thursday 5 November, National restrictions replaced the Local Covid Alert Level measures. These measures will be underpinned by law. Police and other authorities have powers to give fines and break up gatherings.

The new measures will apply nationally for four weeks up to and including Wednesday 2 December.

- Stay at home, except for specific purposes.
- Avoid meeting people you do not live with, except for specific purposes.

These new measures will reduce the growth rate of the virus, which will:

- prevent the NHS from being overwhelmed
- ensure schools, colleges and universities can stay open
- ensure that as many people as possible can continue to work

**If you or a member of your household tests positive or are displaying symptoms of Covid19, please inform the school immediately via studybugs so that we can support you with the right advise. Studybugs is also monitored out of hours and during the weekend.**

## Staffing Update

Congratulations to Mrs Hussein and her family who announced the arrival of their beautiful baby boy . Both mother and baby are doing really well.

We will also be saying farewell to Mrs Dickens who will be starting her maternity leave at the end of this week. Mrs Claire Cairns will be taking over Class KD and has been spending time with Mrs Dickens and the children this week to help with a smooth transition.



We will be saying farewell to Mrs Parker –Bates at the end of this week and would like to wish her all the best in her new role.

Welcome to Mrs Howarth, who has recently joined the EYFS team this year and enjoying getting to know the children in class J/C

**Unplanned staffing changes will be inevitable for the next few weeks due to staff isolating or shielding. If well enough, members of staff having to work from home will continue to keep in touch with children remotely at school. We have found that this has helped our children and they have really enjoyed talking to their teachers using new ways of technology. In these circumstances we will have to adapt some of our normal routines and thank our parents in advance for their understanding .**

## Staying warm at school

As part of our control measure to mitigate Covid-19 related risks, we are required to keep windows and doors open so that there is adequate ventilation at all times.

As winter approaches we understand that this can cause children to feel cold. In order to keep warm, we would recommend that our children wear thermal t-shirts/vests, preferably white, under their formal school shirt as well as their normal school jumper/cardigan. Wearing layers will keep the children nice and warm whilst ensuring the classroom remains well ventilated.





The children have been learning about the festival of light. They have really enjoyed learning about the Hindu culture and how Diwali is celebrated.

As a school, we will be celebrating Diwali on Tuesday 17th November. We will be having a special lunch in school and children are welcome to come to school dressed in traditional dress or smart clothing. There will be a lot of food tasting, dancing, art and storytelling over the next few days.

Although it will be quite different this year, we would like to wish a Happy Diwali to all of our families who will be celebrating this weekend.



**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2020**



To help raise money for the BBC Children In Need appeal, we are asking the children to come dressed in 'Something Spotty' for a suggested donation of £1.

All donations this year should be made via: <https://www.parentpay.com/> (all of the funds raised will be paid directly to Children In Need)



Well done to the Year 2 children who have made some wonderful creations of poppies as part of their art homework, as we have not been able to sell poppies in school this year.



A minute silence will be observed by the school community (in a socially distanced way) on Wednesday 11th November to remember those who gave their lives in conflict, with Mrs Parker-Bates playing the last post.



# KEEPING UNDER FIVES SAFE ONLINE

**8 top tips** that you can put in place at home, to help keep your youngest children safe online.



## Enjoy going online together

The best way to keep your family safe online, and to understand your child's internet use, is to use technology and the internet together. Get to know how a game or device works by exploring it as a family and finding where the main settings and safety features are.



## Establish clear boundaries

In the same way that you set boundaries for most areas of your children's lives, establish your expectations with technology use and online activities. Creating a family agreement is a useful step, which might include time spent online, where and when devices can be used and what to do if they see something upsetting. You can find the Childnet Family Agreement at [www.childnet.com/have-a-conversation](http://www.childnet.com/have-a-conversation).



## Supervise your child's use

We recommend that you always supervise a young child when they are online as they may stumble across something which could worry, upset or confuse them. Since the internet can be accessed from a number of devices and many of these are portable, we would advise you to keep family and child devices in a busy part of your home e.g. the living room or kitchen. This makes it easier for you to be involved in their technology use and you are right there to answer any questions and help them.



## Consider the quality and quantity of online activities

Young children can be enthusiastic users of technology but try to encourage a healthy mix of online and offline activities. There are some strategies that can be used to help manage the time your child spends online, such as setting time limits or using time limiting tools, designating weekly times to use the internet together, or removing portable devices from your child's bedroom at night to avoid tiredness.



## Make use of parental tools

Make use of parental controls and filters which can be used on your home internet, devices, phone networks and online services such as Netflix and YouTube.

Visit the Parents' Guide to Technology on the UK Safer Internet Centre website to find out how to set up controls on a device [www.saferinternet.org.uk/parent-tech](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/parent-tech).

Visit [www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls](http://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls) to find out how you can set up controls on your home internet, phone network and online services such as Netflix.

Parental controls will work best in combination with supervision and engagement to help your child understand how to stay safe online. As your child grows and develops, so do their online needs, therefore you may want to periodically review your parental controls to accommodate this.

Always remember to choose a strong password and do not share it with your child.



## Start the conversation early

It's important to begin the conversation about staying safe online as early as possible in order to establish positive behaviour and routines early in a child's life. The age that you should begin speaking to your child will differ between families but essentially as they start engaging with technology and the internet these conversations can and should begin. Try using the conversations below to help you with this.

You can also give your child strategies early on that they can use if something ever worries or upsets them online. These could include: switch the screen off, close the laptop, exit the website, or turn the iPad or phone over and come ask for help.



## Choose age appropriate apps and games

Gaming may be the very first way that your child encounters life online and there are lots of fantastic online games and apps to support their learning and development. When choosing a new game or app for your child the first thing to be aware of is the age rating. Much like films, games have age ratings too and these are determined by the game's content. PEGI ([pegi.info](http://pegi.info)) set these ratings along with content descriptors which indicate if a game contains things like violence, in app purchases or scenes of a sexual nature. Google Play and Windows Store apps are also rated by PEGI and the App Store has age ratings too.

You can also proactively find great age appropriate apps and games for young children to use by filtering by age at [www.commonsensemedia.org](http://www.commonsensemedia.org). Common Sense Media is a website which provides reviews and lots of useful information on games but they also cover films, apps, TV shows, websites, books, and music too. Reading online reviews of games from other parents' experiences is a really useful way to highlight potential safety issues like whether the game features inappropriate adverts or bad language.

Many games also offer in-app purchases which means spending real money on in-game features. You can turn off in-app purchases and protect them with a password. To find more information about how to do this visit [www.childnet.com/in-app-purchases](http://www.childnet.com/in-app-purchases).



## Know where to report

Reports can be made to websites through their safety/help centres and moderation services. If you are worried or suspicious about someone who contacts your child online report them to CEOP ([www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk)). For more information regarding reporting, visit our Need Help page in the parents and carers section of the Childnet website [www.childnet.com/parents-help](http://www.childnet.com/parents-help).

## Conversation starters for under 5s



- Q - What is your favourite thing to do on the iPad/tablet/my phone etc?
- Q - What is your favourite game/app and why do you like it?
- Q - Where do we use the iPad/tablet/games console and when can we use it?
- Q - What can you do if something online upsets you?
- Q - Who can help you with your favourite games and apps?
- Q - If a message appears on the screen, what should you do?
- Q - Who can go online? Do we know everyone online?