

7th May 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

I am writing to you today, Thursday 7th May, as tomorrow is the Bank Holiday. I appreciate that many for key workers this will be a normal working day and I am sure, like me, you continue to be grateful for their dedication in keeping the NHS and other services running for the good of the nation. However, as a nation many of us will be reflecting with thanks on the past, celebrating 'VE Day'. I hope you have a fun filled day whatever 'events' you enjoy (at a social distance!) 75 years ago the allied forces won the battle of the Second World War and defeated the evil of Hitler and all that he stood for. Each generation since has benefited from peace and prosperity due to the sacrifice of many. It is with hope that we look to our future and trust that we will win our current battle against the Corona virus and once again live in safety and health. As the world learnt important lessons from war and strive, ultimately becoming a better place to live in, I hope we too will learn lessons from our experience of lock down and that our 'new normal' will be a more caring and positive existence.

Life has continued to move on as we come to the end of week 7 of lock down. The sun has come out again giving us a renewed feeling of hope. A sense of optimism is beginning to be felt as deaths reduce and we hear rumblings from the government that strict restrictions will slowly be lifted. I was hoping to be able to write with more concrete news as to the opening of schools but I guess we will have to wait until Sunday now for the Prime Minister's big announcement before we can plan for our children to return to us at the Willows. That day can't come soon enough and we are excited about welcoming you back in whatever way we are directed. Let's hope by this time next week we will have a clearer picture of what this means.

A vital aspect we are very conscious of is the impact that lock down has had on our children. We are developing ways that you can share information about your children's lock down experience with us if you wish, so that we can support you and your children when they return to school. In the meantime, there are many resources available for you to access to help your children while they are still at home with you. We have already uploaded some onto the school website under the Parents' Tab and Covid-19 <https://willowsprimaryaltrincham.secure-primariesite.net/covid-19/> Here are a few new ones that we have found this week:

- COVID-19 - resources for parents and carers (Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health) The college have identified a range of useful websites and information to help parents and children at this time. The website can be found here: <https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/covid-19-resources-parents-carers>
The webpage can also be downloaded as a pdf here: <https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/sites/default/files/generated-pdf/document/COVID-19---resources-for-parents-and-carers.pdf> I have attached it to this email and it can also be found on our website under the Parents' Tab - Covid-19
- Stay at home activities for children and young people <https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/stay-home-activities-children-young-people> as well as <https://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/media/2013/self-care-kit-covid-19.pdf> I

have attached it to this email and it can also be found on our website under the Parents' Tab - Covid-19

- <https://www.elsa-support.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Coronavirus-home-challenge.pdf> I have attached it to this email and it can also be found on our website under the Parents' Tab - Covid-19
- For parents <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/childrens-mental-health/depression-anxiety-mental->
- Young Minds Parents' Helpline - [health/ https://mindup.org.uk/families/](https://mindup.org.uk/families/) Call 0808 802 5544 for free Mon-Fri from 9.30am to 4pm

Once again, can I congratulate you on the wonderful job you are all doing with your children at home. Thank you for sharing your creative ideas, many of the teachers will be 'stealing' some of them for in school learning in the future. We are grateful too for those of you who are sharing resources you have found on line. Do let me know if you find anything worth sharing.

- Trafford Music Service, some of our children are successfully continuing their music lessons remotely information can be found at <https://traffordmusicservice.co.uk/>
- Barclays Code Playground are running live coding sessions that follow KS2 curriculum, the link to the Barclays site is here, and there is a catalogue of past sessions on YouTube. <https://events.uk.barclays/codeplayground>
- Tactile Arts, this is the company that run an Art Club in school, they are now running art sessions virtually online. To book a session visit <https://www.tactilearts.co.uk/bookings>

We continue to see many happy faces on SeeSaw and Tapestry, it is wonderful to witness the children having fun as well as their learning. I appreciate not every day is easy or anywhere near perfect, focus on the good times and remember the whole family's physical health and mental well being is paramount. If you have to leave home learning for a day or even a few to focus on these vital aspects of life, that is absolutely fine.

I hope you all plan to have a 'day off' tomorrow. Enjoy your celebrations and activities. Look after each other and stay safe.

You are all in my thoughts daily.

Take care,

Mrs Warren