



Wendover CE Junior School

We aim to be the school of choice at the heart of our community.

Through living our Christian values, all children and adults at WCEJS have the opportunity to flourish as individuals.

We nurture the curiosity to learn, the courage to lead and the compassion to care.

WCEJS Newsletter 22 May 2020

What's been going on in school?

Those children attending school have been learning maths and English, just like everyone else. They have also been completing a daily workout - sometimes Joe Wicks and sometime online yoga. Art, PE and gardening are just some of the learning activities that they have been doing in the afternoons - the school garden is starting to blossom.

Life in school though is very different. We are all observing 2m social distancing rules, classes are much smaller and we are washing our hands a lot. We hope and pray that we will be able to return to normal as soon as we safely can.

COVID Update

The last two weeks have been an extremely busy time for schools, since the Prime Minister's announcement on 10 May. There's a lot of information and guidance available and also a lot of speculation. You should have already received a letter this week to keep you as up-to-date as we can about our plans for a wider re-opening of the school.

We will not be opening as usual for Y6 on 1 June. We are planning for a return of Y6 as soon as it is safe to do so. The situation is fluid and there have been additional requests for school places from the critical workers. This in turn impacts our capacity to staff classes, particularly as these are a third of their usual size in order to socially distance pupils. The task is complex and there are many contrasting viewpoints regarding more children being in school. Thank you for all your patience to date and especially for the positive and supportive comments we have received - this has been passed on to our team at Wendover Juniors.

Safeguarding

If you have a safeguarding concern or need support then please contact us and we will be in touch: admin@wendoverjunior.co.uk Further information is available on our website.

Parent Survey

Thank you to everyone who has completed the short survey already - over half of our parents. Not surprisingly, there are many shared concerns and also different points of view. The information will be very helpful in shaping further provision and communication. Thank you too for the kind positive comments - they make a massive difference at this time.

eSchools

Well done to everyone for continuing to show just how good you are as learners. It has been lovely to send so many Headteacher Awards out - even though I am not getting to talk to you directly about your work.

Information from the parent survey will be used to refine our remote learning provision. I have talked with year leaders and teachers about the use of video to support learning. A number of safeguards need to be in place before this is possible and we must consider workload - teachers are currently

spending a significant amount of time monitoring remote learning and giving feedback - particular when they are teaching in school during the day and then have their own children to educate after school.

We are developing the class discussion facility to allow more interaction between class teachers and the children and amongst the children themselves. Children are already able to message and blog. I would like to remind parents that these communications should be monitored by parents. Should inappropriate messages be sent, a lock may be placed on the user account.

Staying Safe, Healthy & Well

We are doing lots in school to help children with this strange situation. Here are further resources you may find helpful, particularly if you are a key worker (also available on school website):

Advice for key workers and their children:

<https://www.bps.org.uk/news-and-policy/psychologists-produce-advice-key-workers-and-their-children>

<https://www.bps.org.uk/sites/www.bps.org.uk/files/Policy/Policy%20%20Files/When%20your%20parent%20is%20a%20keyworker%20-%20advice%20for%20children%20and%20young%20people.pdf>

<https://www.bps.org.uk/sites/www.bps.org.uk/files/Policy/Policy%20-%20Files/Advice%20for%20keyworker%20parents%20-%20helping%20your%20child%20adapt.pdf#>

Tips for coping with the new normal:

<https://weneedtotalkaboutchildrensmentalhealth.wordpress.com/2020/03/27/tips-to-share-with-children-to-help-them-cope-with-the-new-normal/>

Online Safety

Whilst we do not condone the use of apps designed for older children, we would like to support parents who allow their children to use them. Please click on this link to access safety information form

Barnardos: https://wendover.eschools.co.uk/website/e-safety_1/188868

Premier Play Active Club

Wraparound care club for children of WJS will remain after half term. With only year 6 children returning it will not be viable to open until we have more children back at school. We will review this on a weekly basis and if there is a demand for the service we will of course reopen. If you have any questions please contact Adam - akempton@premier-education.com