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Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all safe and well and managing to enjoy some of the sunshine! As you will know, it was announced on Thursday by the government that schools will remain closed for at least another three weeks. This will then be reviewed. Whilst I know the government are eager to re-open schools, they will only do this when there is evidence to suggest it is safe to do so. For now, the only thing we can do is focus on what we do know - we are closed for the next three weeks.

Teachers have made contact with all available parent/carers and children and will continue to do so over the coming weeks. Teachers have really enjoyed talking to you and the children and listening to the different things children and families have been doing. It is great to hear that children are doing the work set by teachers but also taking advantage of the additional family time and the development of life long skills such as cooking, baking and gardening. I made a phone call to a family one afternoon last week and interrupted a water fight! After a morning of focussed learning, what a great way to get active! Please feel free to send photographs of some of things you are doing to [events@heathfield.bolton.sch.uk](mailto:events@heathfield.bolton.sch.uk).

As you know, teachers are uploading work daily on our school website ([www.heathfield.eschools.co.uk](http://www.heathfield.eschools.co.uk)) and we are posting interesting links, resources and ideas via Twitter and Facebook (@HeathfieldCP). Technology really does help with remote learning and because children will be using the internet more, it is a good time to remind ourselves about the importance of being safe on line.

It is important that parents/carers:

- Talk to their children about online safety and the importance of not giving out personal information and what to do if they are worried or concerned about something they see online,
- Set age-appropriate parental controls on digital devices,
- Use internet filters to block malicious websites. These are usually free, but often need to be turned on,
- Supervise children as much as possible when using the internet, especially if they are using a site that has not been recommended by school,
- Know which sites have access to a 'chat room' and
- Manage screen time with a timer and break up screen time by getting your child involved in other non tech-based activities as discussed in my last letter



- Primary aged children should not have access to social media. Parents/carers should monitor this carefully

Additional information to keep their children safe online can be found on the following links:

- [Internet matters](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [London Grid for Learning](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [Net-aware](#) - for support for parents and careers from the NSPCC
- [Parent info](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [Thinkuknow](#) - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - advice for parents and carers

If you feel you require additional support to ensure your computers/tablets etc are set up safely, please contact school and we can arrange for Mr. Wyatt (our tech expert!) to contact you to provide support.

Parents and children in Early Years have access to Tapestry which allows parents/children to upload completed work and allows teachers to provide feedback and comments. We are in the process of setting up something similar for Years 1 – 6 using Microsoft Teams. I am hoping to be in touch soon regarding this – so keep an eye out!

Members of staff will continue to contact all parents to 'check in' to make sure you and your family are ok. **The telephone calls will come from an 'unknown' number** but please answer the call.

If you want to get in touch with me (or any member of staff), you can contact me directly via email at [events@heathfield.bolton.sch.uk](mailto:events@heathfield.bolton.sch.uk) I will continue to put the government daily update on the school website (Parent info; Coronavirus updates)

Best wishes to everyone in the Heathfield Family, Stay safe,

Yours sincerely

Mr. M D Thornley

Headteacher