



Aspire, Believe - Together Achieve

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NATIONAL LOCKDOWN ROUNDUP – 15TH JANUARY 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

In the current climate of an ever changing world I am going to be writing to you at the end of each week with a roundup of information, news and events. I hope this communication will support you and clarify the week's messages and information.

INCREASING INFECTION RATE

At a Local Authority Heads briefing this week our immediate community was described as a "hot spot". Infection rates in North Common are increasing, I feel it is important that we are aware of this and continue to follow all of the Government guidance. As a school we are following all of the protection measures rigidly and school is as safe as it can be. We are sensitively supporting pupils to maintain good hygiene and distancing without unnecessarily alarming anyone. The National Lockdown message is still that the preferred option is for pupils to be at home, minimise contact and reduce travel.

HOME LEARNING

We will be asking you next week for some feedback on the home learning we are sending you. This will be via a short online survey and we would really appreciate the feedback. My message is still "**do what you can**" and please do message teachers if you need any help or support. We are aware technology may be an issue for some families so paper copies are always available from the main office at 9.30 on a Monday morning. We have ordered a small number of laptops from the DFE but these may take some time to arrive. In the meantime we are recycling donated technology that has been generously given to us and information about data has been messaged to you. Thank you for all of the kind donations.

Next week teachers will start a weekly Zoom call with those children who are at home. We feel that is vital for the wellbeing of the children that they continue to have contact with their teacher and their peers. This will not be a live lesson but a chance to play a game, take part in a quiz or scavenger hunt, share great learning and talk. Each class teacher has sent guidance and instructions via email, please read these carefully for the safeguarding of your children and others. Meeting links will be sent on the day of the meeting via private message.

WELLBEING, MENTAL HEALTH AND BEHAVIOUR

We are very aware that this is a trying time for families and children, home learning can on occasion be a very stressful! The isolation of lockdown and lack of social interaction can also impact on families well-being.



Mrs Newbolt, our Family Link Worker, is available via the school office and can support with families struggling with wellbeing, mental health or behaviour. There are also websites and services that can be accessed (see below). The social aspect of school is vital to children's growth and development. I would positively encourage you to support your children to chat with their friends on the phone, set up video calls or messages. If you do this please supervise your child and be aware of safeguarding yourself and others.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/improve-mental-wellbeing/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/childrens-mental-health/>

<https://youngminds.org.uk/>

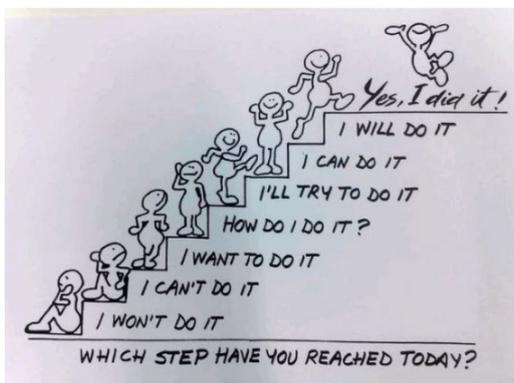
<https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/our-work-and-impact/children-and-families/good-mental-health/>

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-health-development/promoting-mental-health-wellbeing>



One good way to support the well-being of yourself and your children is through daily exercise. On Monday 18th we will be publishing our Rainbow Star Trail Map. This will be posted on dojo or paper copies will be available from the school office. These can be taken out on your daily walk so that you can spot all of the beautifully decorated stars that have been displayed in our local community with the added bonus of encouraging the children to use their map reading skills! St Barnabas is definitely letting its light shine across Warmley. A big thank you to everyone who has taken part.

On a final note our value of this term is PERSEVERANCE and never has this been more appropriate. Your kind comments, positivity and understanding has supported the wellbeing of the staff here immensely. All of the messages I have received I am sharing with them, it has hugely boosted morale. I am determined to keep the St Barnabas community alive, persevering and thriving even in these uncertain and difficult times.



Assuring you of our best at all times,

Miss Sheppard and Team St Barnabas

