

# William Martin CofE Schools and Nursery

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*Experiencing life in all its fullness*

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021



## Parent Update

Dear Parents,

So, we have reached the end of the Half-Term of what has definitely been the hardest Lockdown and once again schools have had to be closed to all but a few. We are all, however, hoping that there is a light at end the end of the tunnel and that the children will be returning back to school on the 8<sup>th</sup> March - we have all got our fingers and toes crossed, as we miss their vibrant energy around the quiet school buildings!

## Safer Internet Week

Thank you for all the entries for the Internet Safety Poster Competition, the winners will be announced the first week back after half term!

This week the children have been learning about how to stay safer on-line. We have created an Online Safety page on the website which has loads of in formation on there for children and parents.

<https://williammartinschools.org.uk/online-safety/>

Parents may find the "What Parents Need to Know About Specific Apps, Games and Social Networking Sites" section at the bottom of the page particularly useful - particular the information on very concerning sites such as:

**Omegle** <https://williammartinschools.org.uk/online-safety/#tab-id-24>

and **Discord** <https://williammartinschools.org.uk/online-safety/#tab-id-18>

which have been identified as particularly dangerous sites for primary aged children.



Our Core Christian Values: Perseverance, Justice, Respect, Trust, Compassion, Responsibility, Forgiveness, Peace

## Top Tips for Keeping Your Child Safe Online

- Talk and show an interest in the games they are playing and who they are meeting online.
- Make sure they are accessing the internet in an open place in the house.
- Make sure your child is only playing with or befriending people online that they know in real life.
- Set parental controls on your device and networks.
- Be aware of whether the games your child is playing are age-appropriate. You can check the PEGI website for age guides <https://pegi.info/>
- Be aware in the UK, the legal age for setting up a social media account is 13.

### AND FINALLY:

- We have been advised that the use of the sites **Omegle** and **Discord** should be **strongly discouraged amongst children due to the risk of unsuitable content or online grooming**: Be aware that your child can be invited on to these sites from other sites such as Roblox or Fortnite. Ask your child if they are familiar with these sites as they may be using them without your knowledge.

## Half-Term Holiday

School will be shut over the next week, except for a bit more painting – thank you Mr Russell! If a member of your household tests positive, please can you email [head.harlow@dcvst.org](mailto:head.harlow@dcvst.org), to let me know so that we can inform relevant families and staff. Those children who are eligible to attend school will return on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021, when remote learning will also resume.

## Free School Meals

Vouchers will be delivered via Wonde over the half term, so please look out for your vouchers.

## LFD Testing

Staff are now invited to take part in Lateral Flow Testing from next week at school. Staff will take 2 tests a week. The purpose of the testing is to identify staff who may be asymptomatic with regard to COVID-19.

If staff test positive, they will be asked to book a COVID-19 test at a local testing centre, to have the result confirmed. Any member of staff that tests positive will have to follow the government guidance of isolation until they have the result from the test taken at a test centre.

If a bubble is closed as a result of a positive Lateral Flow Test, all children within that bubble will have to isolate themselves immediately. If the result from the testing centre confirms the Lateral Flow Test result, then all children will need to isolate in line with the government guidelines.

We are hope that the regular testing of staff will ensure that we are slowing a spread of the virus throughout our school community as much as we can.



## World Book Day

To give parents a bit of notice - World Book day is Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March. To celebrate this, all children will be invited to dress up as their favourite book character for their class weekly zoom.

## Goodbye

Mrs Whitbread will be leaving us on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February, we wanted to take this opportunity to thank her for her many years at William Martin Schools, and to wish her well in her new ventures. Good Luck Mrs Whitbread we will really miss you!

## Parent Consultations

The teachers really enjoyed catching up with all the parents during the consultations this week, I'm pleased so many parents were able to talk to their children's teachers.

During these consultations, we asked the teachers to gain parental feedback on our remote learning offer, and to explore the possibility of increasing the number of live lessons and reducing the number of pre-recorded lessons should school continue to be closed beyond the 8<sup>th</sup> March. Over 85% of parents reported that they were very happy with the school's remote offer and didn't want an increase in live lessons as they felt the pre-recorded lessons allowed a more flexible approach to home learning. We will continue to review our offer should school remain closed.

Thank you for all your positive feedback and appreciation during this discussion, the teachers have been working so hard to provide the very best remote education for the children and your positive feedback has made it all worthwhile. Hopefully, the children will all be back soon, so we can resume proper classroom teaching which is what we all much prefer!

We have also attached our Captain Tom Challenge Update with this letter so you can see how brilliantly we are progressing towards 100K goal!

Have a fantastic half term break, and we look forward to finding out what our future holds on the Government update on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February!!!

Very best wishes and stay safe,

Gina Bailey

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