 Yaxham Church of England (VA) Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Jennie Müller

Chair of Governors: Mrs Michelle Parnell

1st May 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope you and your families are all keeping safe and well. I know for those of you at home it may well have been trickier with the change in the weather, I feel the sunshine definitely helps! As time goes on we are hearing how difficult some children are finding it being away from their friends, I know some of you have ways of making contact but if you don’t, please do get in touch and we will do what we can to support. We have developed the well-being area on the website with mindfulness resources which may also help. For those of you juggling work and home learning we do appreciate the challenge you are facing. Please do be kind to yourselves, you cannot do it all. The most important thing is that the children are safe. Whatever we can do to support please ask.

For everyone working with your children at home, please remember we are planning suggestions, only you can judge what will work for your family on any given day. Please do what suits you best. 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, as well as curling up and enjoying a good book or film! Lots of you have made contact with us and staff will continue to make contact with you over the coming weeks. We have really enjoyed hearing the different things children and families have been doing.

Technology really has helped with remote learning, but I imagine it may have been a learning curve for many of you, as it has been for us. We are also aware that children, particularly in KS2, will be using the internet more than ever. We have refreshed our policy and procedure in light of this but also thought it would be useful to share these reminders with families.

It is important that parents:

* 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’
* Manage screen time and break up screen time by getting your child involved in other non tech-based activities
* Primary aged children should not have access to social media
* Think about where photographs or videos are taken and what children are wearing. Staff will not share these if they are concerned.

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

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

<https://www.lgfl.net/> - London Grid for Learning

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/> - NSPCC

<https://parentinfo.org/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>National Crime Agency

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>

All parents continue to have access to Tapestry as well as the class email addresses allowing you to keep in touch. Members of staff will continue to contact all parents to ‘check in’ to make sure you and your family are ok. **Please be aware, if staff telephone, the telephone calls may come from an ‘unknown’ number** so please do answer the call.

We will of course continue to share up to date information as we have it. If we can be of any further support, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best wishes to everyone. Stay safe and well.

Mrs Jennie Müller

Headteacher