

March 2022

Welcome Back..!

It only seems like 5 minutes since we returned after the festive break, so a BIG THANK YOU to all parents for your continued support.

Coming back, we want all children well rested and ready to learn, this past year has been particularly difficult for everyone catching up after so much disruption but we are looking to the future with positivity. Children will be expected to be in on time, in uniform, looking smart, looking forward to learning.

Attendance & Well-being

Students who attend school daily have been shown to achieve at higher levels than students who do not have regular attendance. A child needs to be in school every day. If you are having difficulties getting your child into school, please come and talk to us.

It is a parents legal and moral obligation to ensure their child/ren attend school daily. Failure to do so means those children will not meet their academic potential and will struggle socially to form positive relationships in the future.

A persistent or regular absence is educational neglect and schools will continue to work alongside parents in order to make sure every child has the best opportunities available to them which is what they deserve and are entitled to.

If your child is particularly unwell we understand they cannot attend, however if they have mild symptoms that can be treated with a dose of Calpol, get them into school and if we need to send them home at any point, we will.

Please be mindful you must contact school as early as possible to report an absence. If we are unable to obtain a reason this will be unauthorised and repeated unauthorised absences will lead to a penalty fine being issued by the Local Authority. This is not something we have a say in, the Local Authority use our data to issue the fines, so please notify us at the earliest point.

Domestic Abuse

Throughout lockdown it was announced by government, the significant rise in Domestic Abuse within the home and the impact this will have on our children both physically and emotionally.

We have seen an upward trend in Domestic Abuse cases locally, more recently. There are services that offer support locally and that can be easily contacted. Black Country Women's Aid have a 24 hour helpline and can be contacted on 0121 552 6448. Please reach out for support if you need it.

If at any point you feel unsafe please call West Midlands Police immediately on 999. More information about their service can be found at www.blackcountrywomensaid.co.uk

Operation Encompass

Operation Encompass has been up and running at Reedswood E-ACT Primary Academy a while now and aims to support children and young people who are affected by domestic abuse. Witnessing or experiencing domestic abuse is really distressing for a child or young person, who often see the abuse, hear it from another room, see a parent's injuries or distress afterwards, or can be physically hurt by trying to stop the abuse.

As a result, following any domestic abuse incident being reported to the Police, the Police will make contact with one of the education representatives at Walsall MASH (Children's Services), who will then on behalf of the Police communicate relevant, necessary information to nominated school staff. This will ensure that the school is made aware at the earliest possible opportunity and can subsequently provide support to children in a way that means they feel safe and listened to.

Each school has members of staff who have been trained in liaising with Police and Children's Social Care when required, and will ensure that the necessary support is made available to the child or young person following the notification of a domestic abuse incident.

We believe that this project demonstrates our school's commitment to working in partnership to safeguard and protect children, and to providing the best possible care and support for our pupils.

Online Safety.... Stranger Danger...!

We have had a significant increase in children spending surplus time on electronic devices at home and as a result they have either engaged in inappropriate gaming/viewing or setting up profiles on social media platforms such as Facebook, Snapchat, Tiktok and Instagram, to chat to others.

Please be mindful these all come with an age limit for a reason and you need to make sure you are aware of what your child/ren are accessing. You as a parent are responsible for letting them access and use technology and therefore you are responsible to ensure parental controls are active. You are responsible for putting all measures in place to keep them as safe as possible.

We teach Online Safety regularly throughout the year and our children are confident that they know what information they should not be sharing and if something unexpected turns up they know what action to take, i.e. tell an adult. Therefore, we ask for your support to embed this safety message at home. If you are allowing your child/ren to own their own device, phone, laptop, pc, tablet, gaming console, this needs to be supervised so you can ensure it is being used safely. We would not recommend headsets when gaming as you cannot hear what conversations are taking place and we would encourage you to have your child/ren use the devices in a shared environment i.e. the living room/kitchen for example. If children are being allowed access to the internet, with no restrictions or parental controls and you are allowing them to do so in a private space such as their bedroom, this is not a protective factor and is putting your child/ren in an extremely vulnerable position.

Help us to keep our children safe..!

More Information can be found at:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

