



Wellington
Primary Academy



Wellington
Eagles
PRIMARY ACADEMY

Dear parents/carers

At this difficult time, with our school community no longer able to join together physically each day, it is important that we keep in touch and support each other remotely. Therefore, I will be sending a weekly newsletter to all parents but with a different message to the usual reminders about school uniform, arriving at school on time and considerate parking!

A new way of learning

Most of you will now be a week into home schooling and I have seen some hilarious WhatsApps about a new-found respect for teachers! As at the beginning of any new initiative, we start with great intentions, be it a new exercise regime, diet or giving up smoking. Your approach to Remote Learning will no doubt be equally enthusiastic and you may have high hopes of the amazing 1:1 support you will be able to offer your child and be looking forward to the many 'light bulb' moments you will enjoy as they suddenly understand fractions, adverbial clauses or gravity!

However, there are some factors that may prevent this happening. Our children are just as concerned as the adults are and will have picked up a lot of mixed information from the News, hearing adults talk and the tensions and anxieties you will be feeling within your own family.

Although initially exciting, the novelty will soon wear off as children realise that this is not the same as being on school holidays. They can't go on playdates, visit their favourite play areas or go on exciting days out. The reality of being at home and not seeing their friends will soon hit them and we may then see some behaviour issues. They may show signs of anger, anxiety or be argumentative with you and their siblings.

At this point, adhering to a rigid timetable of remote learning may not be possible or for the best. Instead, this is the time for cuddles, comforting chats and family time. It is not often that you will hear a Headteacher say this, but there are many ways you can help your child learn that does not involve being a qualified teacher in a classroom!

Baking, going on a nature walk (obviously as your one form of exercise a day!), gardening, reading a family book together, designing a comic and writing a letter or emailing Grandparents are all great ways for your child to learn through different channels.

Remember, all children are in the same situation and teachers will be able to focus on their learning when we are back at school. We need you to focus on their wellbeing while they are at home, so accept that they will have more screen time than usual but the occasional family movie night, game on the X-Box and duvet day in bed doing nothing is ok too and you are the best judge of your child's needs.

You and your family's wellbeing:

The following links may help you to explain and discuss the current situation with your children: concerns with you:

<https://www.flipsnack.com/CSKidsBooks/what-s-going-on.html>

This link is suitable sharing with younger children:

<https://nursedottybooks.com/dave-the-dog-is-worried-about-coronavirus-2/>

One Day Creative is going online and releasing short sessions for parents to use with their children to keep them happy, healthy and engaged with learning while they are at home. This is a link to subscribe to the channel for free:

bit.ly/2U2rfxa

Remote learning:

We have set up emails for each keystage as follows:

EYFS (Reception)	WPEYFS@wellingtonprimary.org.uk
KS1 (Year 1 and 2)	WPKS1@wellingtonprimary.org.uk
Lower KS2 (Year 3 and 4)	WPLowerKS2@wellingtonprimary.org.uk
Upper KS2 (Year 5 and 6)	WPUpperKS2@wellingtonprimary.org.uk

These can be used to ask for confirmation regarding home learning, guidance on how to support your child with a certain task or sharing the achievements of your child. Please do not use them to ask for feedback about your child's progress or individual questions about your child as they will be responded to by a team of skeleton staff who may not know your child well.

Free School Meals

All families that are eligible for Free School Meals have received a letter outlining the options available for them to either have a hot or packed lunch to collect from The Wellington Academy or delivered to their home. We are also providing a free weekly basic supplies box which will be delivered to their home.

However, we are aware that some families may be eligible for Free School Meals but have not applied as they receive a free meal for their child under the Universal Infant Free School Meals entitlement that all children under 7 have. If you think you meet the criteria listed below, you can apply for a FSM at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals/wiltshire>

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

Income Support

- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
 - income-related Employment and Support Allowance
 - support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit

- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
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Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

Your child may also get free school meals if you get any of these benefits and your child is both:

- younger than the compulsory age for starting school
- in full-time education

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they'll remain eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they're in on 31 March 2022.

As soon as we are notified that your application has been approved, we will get in touch to offer you the daily lunch service.

In the meantime, if anybody in our school community is struggling, please get in touch in confidence and we will support you as much as possible. This is a difficult time for everyone but for some families, there will be a greater impact than for others and we wish to ensure our whole school community is well cared for.

Rainbow Hunt:

You may have read about the number of local communities that are putting rainbows in their windows to bring a smile to the faces of all who pass by. We are encouraging all our Wellington families to create a rainbow and display it prominently in their front windows so those out on a daily walk or cycle can enjoy spotting them, count how many they can see and choose their favourite! Please look out for the one the children in school this week are creating as it will be displayed in the Sports Hall window and it is our way of showing we are thinking of you all! Do send in a picture of your lovely creations to your Keystage email addresses so we can see your wonderful creations!

Additional Activities to keep you busy:

Please find below a list of just some of the many websites and activities that are cropping up to keep our children busy. It can be overwhelming, so remember, these are just suggestions and not all of them may be suitable for your child, but it's nice to have some options:

9.00am - PE with Joe Wicks

www.youtube.com/ (search PE with Joe Wicks)

10.00am - Maths with Carol Vorderman

www.themathsfactor.com/

11.00am- English with David Walliams

<https://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com/elevenses/>

12.00 Lunch (cooking with Jamie Oliver)

www.jamieoliver.com/features/category/get-kids-cooking/

1.00pm - Music with Myleene Klass

www.youtube.com/ (search music klass)

I wish you all the very best in this difficult time and we are here to support you in any way we can,

Yours sincerely,

Claire Addis