



Spalding Parish Church of England Day School

28th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Communication Update

You may recall that I wrote to you earlier in the week with regards to prioritising your families well being. As a result of a number of comments on social media yesterday I felt it was important to write to you again to clarify some of the current systems in place at school.

Despite the fact that we are only open to restricted groups of pupils at this point in time, our duty of care as a school still applies and this is clearly established within Government guidance in relation to the current situation. This includes ensuring all members of the school community are safe and well in line with safeguarding procedures even whilst we are closed to the majority of pupils. As such class teachers and school staff will endeavour to contact you, via email or telephone, if they have not seen your child on a 'live' session or seen any work submitted for a day or two. The intention is to check in and offer any support should it be required, we genuinely only want to know that you are ok. As part of the Spalding Parish family, you are all very important to us and we just want to know you are safe and well - I'm sure if you had not heard from or had contact with a family member or close friend for a few days you would feel the same.

We do appreciate, as I said in my letter earlier this week, that life is more than a little challenging at this moment in time. We know that you may not be able to attend every live session or complete every piece of work. We know that children get ill and parents get ill. We know you may just need a break or that other things may need to take precedence, your own work for example or caring for younger children. And we do understand – we do have our own families and commitments too! All we would ask is that you keep in touch so we know you are all ok. Please drop us an email to let us that your child is having a day away from the screen, that they won't be on a live session, that they've needed to spend some time outdoors or to play a game. This ensures that we know you are ok, that you are safe and well and we can stop worrying.

As you will no doubt be aware the focus for the current lockdown is very different to previously with a more focused emphasis on learning this time, in line with the school curriculum. We know that a number of our families have had difficulty accessing Teams, with limited access to technology and/or the internet. Whilst school resources are limited we do have some capacity to support where this is the case and this has also been a reason for staff contact over the last few weeks to ensure your child has



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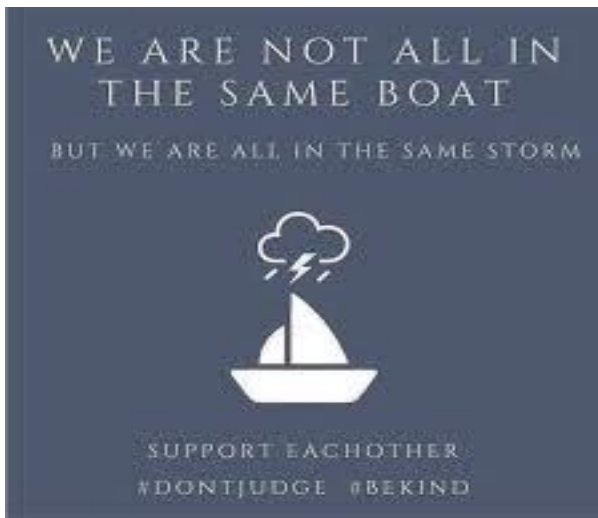
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Head Teacher: Diane Mulley

the equipment they need to be able to continue their learning whilst at home. As I am sure you will appreciate we can only truly know what support you or your child may need by getting in touch and having these conversations with you – I know lots of parents have appreciated this and feel that school has listened when such conversations have taken place.

I know a number of parents have also queried the use of the chat facility within Microsoft Teams. The chat facility should only be used to respond to questions within the 'live' sessions or if your child needs to ask the teacher a question directly related to their learning. Class teachers and school staff regularly revisit the expectations with regards to the chat facility but we would ask that you also reiterate that message at home please – this would be very much appreciated. Whilst the chat is switched off outside of school hours we know that replies can still be added. We do not expect the children to be accessing Teams outside of school hours as they do need a break each day and have time to spend on doing things they enjoy including playing outside or with their toys, reading or watching TV.



We are facing unprecedented times, times we have never faced before and this is very difficult for us all. We appreciate it is difficult for you and are here to support. Please remember it is difficult for all members of the staff team too – not least in part because we are missing the children who are the heart and soul of our school. None of us signed up for this online learning journey when we had our children or joined the profession – parents and staff alike. We are all trying our very hardest to do our best for the SPCEDs family. We are only human and the same challenges you face we face too.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to the whole team for their commitment and determination over the last few weeks. For responding to the needs of our critical worker families with just over 12 hours notice and for ensuring that there is always someone you can turn to for support with your child. I'm sure this appreciation is also felt by all of you.

Finally your feedback remains very important to us and only by receiving such feedback can we act. I would ask that if you do have any such feedback or do have any queries or concerns that these are directed to the school rather than via social media. We want to support your child and you and can only do so if we know. As I said in my letter earlier in the week we are here to help so please get in touch either via the Year Group emails or via feedback@spaldingparish.lincs.sch.uk.

Keep going everyone – one foot in front of the other – you are all doing an amazing job. There will come a time when we will reflect on this period in history and wonder how we did it but we will get through it if we pull together.

Kind Regards,
Diane Mulley
Head Teacher



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