

Monday 4th May

Galleywood Infant School Newsletter

Dear Parents / Carers,

There continues to be a lot of speculation in the news about how and when schools might reopen. This seems likely to happen in some form in early June but we have had no information yet from either the Government or local authority.

We have been promised more details at the end of this week about how the lockdown will be relaxed and children gradually return to school. As soon as we have this information the leadership team and Governors will have a virtual meeting to consider the logistical and practical challenges so that we can ensure that school is safe for children, safe for parents, safe for staff and safe for the wider community. We are fortunate to have large classrooms at Galleywood, and to have some additional teaching space in the demountable classroom and the library which will could enable us to teach children in smaller groups. All of this will form part of our plan, which I hope to be able to share with you early next week.

It has been lovely to see the return of some sunshine today. Friday was May Day and the children who were in school picked some bunches of fragrant sweet peas from the polytunnel to take home to their families.



We know from our phone calls to families, and from staff members who are attempting home learning with their own children, that some days are easier than others. Some children are asking why they cannot come to school, or why they cannot see grandparents and friends. These resources have been written especially for children and might be helpful.

Coronavirus

A book for children



This is a booklet which older children could read by themselves and younger children could share with an adult, written by the illustrator of The Gruffalo:

https://nosycrow.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Coronavirus_INS.pdf



**World Health
Organization**

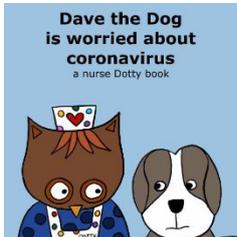
This book has been written primarily for children aged between 6-11yrs

<https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/09-04-2020-children-s-story-book-released-to-help-children-and-young-people-cope-with-covid-19>



This is pictorial and factual, with fewer words, which might help answer questions children have:

<https://carolgraysocialstories.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Pandemics-and-the-Coronavirus.pdf>



These resources are both for younger children:

<https://nursedottybooks.files.wordpress.com/2020/03/dave-the-dog-coronavirus-1-1.pdf>

<https://www.earlyyearsstorybox.com/corona/>



Inevitably a lot of children are spending more time using electronic devices, parents' phones, games -consoles and laptops both for learning and for down time.

Just a reminder to check the age rating on games children are playing, and to remind older brothers and sisters not to play games such as **Fortnite** (which has an age rating of 13), **Minecraft** (some of which has a rating of 7+, other parts 13+) or to go onto sites such as **Tik Tok** (intended for 13+) when younger siblings are with them. This website has a guide explaining what parents need to know about each popular game:

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides>

Attached to this newsletter are some links for children and parents to help keep children safe when they are using online resources: see attached sheet.

If you have spent some of the lockdown period sorting and clearing cupboards, please remember:

- I am always grateful to receive birthday cards, which I can “recycle” through the year to children aged between 4-7, and to members of staff on their birthdays. Thank you.
- Sue Read continues to collect adult and children’s shoes and wellies for the next container sponsored by Empower heading for The Gambia. Please join shoes together in pairs.
- If you have any complete jigsaw puzzles no longer needed, any size between 10-100 pieces, teachers would be pleased to receive them
- Please keep the reading books that have been sent home in a safe place! We need them back, otherwise our reading resources will be very depleted. If you need some new books, either email your class teacher or phone the school office and we will get some ready for you to exchange.

We wish you an enjoyable week. Take the opportunity if you can to get some fresh air every day and enjoy the sunshine. I hope to have to news of our return to school plans early next week.



APPENDIX 1 - online resources for children

Childline

Childline helps anyone under 19 in the UK with any issue they're going through. Children can talk with Childline about anything, whether big or small; their trained counsellors can help. See their website or call free on 0800 1111.

BBC Own It

Updated in relation to COVID-19, this website provides support for young people to take control of their online life. Topics include help and advice, skills and inspiration on matters such as friendships and bullying, safety and self-esteem.

BBC Bitesize

A free online study support resource designed to help with learning, revision and homework. Bitesize provides support for learners aged 5 to 16+ across a wide range of school subjects. It also supports children and young people's wellbeing and career choices; since 20 April daily lessons have been published to help pupils across the UK with home schooling.

APPENDIX 2 - online resources for parents and carers

Essex Safeguarding Children Board (ESCB)

The ESCB is a statutory multi agency organisation which brings together agencies who work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in Essex. It has produced [guidance](#) for parents and carers to help them understand online safety and exploitation generally.

Internet Matters – helping parents and carers keep their children safe online

A not-for-profit organisation that has a simple purpose – to empower parents and carers to keep children safe in the digital world. See their website for further information.

The Children's Society

A charity fighting child poverty and neglect, and helping all children have a better chance in life. They have produced [information](#) about online safety.

The NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children)

The NSPCC has produced several [online safety guides](#), from setting up parental controls to advice on sexting, online games and video apps.

Parent Info

A website offering expert safety advice in relation to a range of online harms, endorsed by the National Crime Agency's CEOP command.

Common Sense Media

Independent reviews, age ratings, & other information about all types of media for children and their parents.

[Parent Zone](#) for families

A website with a range of digital age resources for families, including guides on digital platforms and trends.

[Children's Commissioner](#)

The Children's Commissioner has published a [digital safety and wellbeing kit for parents, and a safety guide for children](#). The kit and guide have been designed to help ensure children are safe and their wellbeing is looked after while at home during the coronavirus outbreak – when their screen time maybe higher than usual.

[The UK Council for Internet Safety \(UKCIS\)](#)

The UK Council for Internet Safety (UKCIS) is a collaborative forum through which government, the tech community and the third sector work together to ensure the UK is the safest place in the world to be online.

[Disrespect Nobody](#)

Home Office advice on healthy relationships, including sexting and pornography