

COLDWALTHAM, ST. JAMES' C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

with Chuckleberries Pre School

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs Stephanie Gibson

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Learn, Discover, Achieve

10th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Online Safety

What a week it has been! I hope that you are all keeping safe and well at the start of this new lockdown period and that you are coping with all the new restrictions that have been put in place.

Thank you for your overwhelmingly positive response to the home learning that the school has arranged during the past week for the children. Teachers have shared with me the amazing responses that they have had and I am in awe of the work that the children have been sending in. I know that this will not have happened without your hard work, dedication and support so thank you very much.

We will be starting the new structure to learning from Monday and we are looking forward to finding out how this works and hearing from you via email and the 1:1 Zoom pupil conferences about how your experience of it has been.

Mrs Kirby and I are going to be receiving training for Google Classroom on Monday which we will be disseminating to staff during the week. As a school, we hope that we will be able to have this remote learning platform up and running in the very near future which should help the smooth implementation of home learning. More details to come as and when we have them!

It is clear, even from the few short paragraphs above, that, in order for home learning to be effective, the ability to be able to work online is crucial. Emails, Zoom, websites, online resources, remote learning platforms...we are reliant on all of these and more to enable our children to be able to learn during this period.

As part of the curriculum, we teach online safety routinely; the children are aware of how to stay safe online and, in the classroom, they demonstrate their awareness and ability to do this. However, as we all know, sometimes when children move learning into another context, they may not demonstrate the same behaviour as they would in the classroom!



With this in mind, as a school, we wanted to support you as parents/carers as you work with the children to help them to stay safe online when they are participating in home learning.

Attached to this letter are some handy little SMART Online Safety Cards for you to be able to use with your children when they are working online. Each day, before your children begin their learning, briefly remind them of the SMART rules and encourage them to use them when they are using websites and online resources.

The SMART rules are not only applicable to home learning. During this time, many children will be only be able to socially connect with their friends online via various social media and online gaming platforms. The SMART cards have reminders about how to behave when using such platforms and give handy links to places where children and parents/carers can get advice.

The SMART Online Safety Cards are taken from Childnet International who have a website dedicated to supporting children, teachers, professionals and parents/carers with online safety. Their website is a treasure trove of advice and help and can be found at <https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers> This link takes you directly to the Parent and Carer section. If the link does not open from this letter, type the address into the search bar of your particular browser and it should open from there.

Online safety has always been a key priority within the curriculum but its importance has perhaps never been so pronounced as it is now. As a school, we are here to support you in every way possible with the learning of your children at home; should you wish to discuss online safety in more depth, please contact your child's class teacher who will answer questions that you have or seek advice should they not know the answer!

I hope that you continue to stay safe and well, online and offline, as we venture further into lockdown. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L. Martin". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a light grey rectangular box.

Mrs L Martin
Head of School