

10.04.20



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we head into the Easter weekend I would like to take this opportunity to share a number of communication systems that have been developed in light of school closure.

We are acutely aware that children and adults are feeling the effects of staying at home in many different ways. Feelings also often change throughout the week, sometimes everything is good and then for apparently no reason people become overwhelmed. We have to appreciate that just because we cannot see what has been the specific trigger that the impact of not seeing family and friends is enormous for many of us.

Children's social circle is often determined by those they see every day in school. Whilst they are at home it is clear that we need to work together within the current constraints. Through use of the virtual classroom, children are able to contact their friends and maybe engage in conversation with those not naturally in their social group.

Things we are doing

All children are in a virtual classroom within Google and this is a safe space in which to ask questions both of their peers and their teachers. The Senior Leadership (SLT) and the Well-being, Emotional and Behaviour (WEB) teams are part of all classrooms and monitor them regularly. It has been lovely to see conversations and things the children have been up to being posted. Class staff are regularly checking the streams but as you may appreciate they are not doing that 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Please encourage the children to be patient if they have not had an immediate reply. Also children probably won't naturally go to the classroom everyday, they need prompting and encouragement to engage with peers and staff.

Each week an online check in is sent which the Senior Leadership and the WEB teams monitor. It is essential that as minimum that your child completes this either with you or independently. The responses help us to gauge how they are doing and we do follow up on them. If there is something we feel you need to know the class teacher will direct message you on parenthub and either SLT or the WEB Team may ring as well. As it is not practical for us to ring and speak to each child every week we have a number of systems in place. We are calling families for the following reasons

- Those that we do need to speak to each week for a variety of reasons,
- If we have not had any contact with your child,
- Then we are starting to call children throughout school although this will take time.

It has become clear to me through conversations with parents this week that parents and staff need to ensure the children are using the internet responsibly as well as actually using the classroom. Talking to parents a number of examples have come to light such as, "well they have said they have been in the classroom" when we have unfortunately not seen them or "no one is talking to me" when we can see this is not the case. This might be a technical issue relating to systems refreshing. It is to be expected that children will be using other forms of online communication also and parents need to monitor this. Mrs Wade in her role of computing lead will be posting slides regarding this after the Easter period.



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Staff are recording themselves completing challenges and or reading stories and these are posted in the classroom and often on Twitter @LakesideYork. If children post work on here staff are replying.

Systems are constantly being reviewed as you will all appreciate these are unprecedented times.

We love hearing what you have been up to, both socially and academically so post in your classroom stream or email admin.lak@ebor.academy. If we can't see it we can't comment.

As with everything there needs to be a balance of expectations. Some families love to share, some are camera shy, some are getting to grips with technology, some would rather focus on the natural world and some are a little bit of everything depending on how the mood takes them. I know my family certainly is! Every type of family is welcome at Lakeside and are essential to a diverse and interesting community. The world would definitely be a boring place if we were all the same.

Finally, there are so many thank you's to share that you might forgive me if I miss one.

- ★ Thank you to all the children who have shown amazing resilience and have often helped the staff when technology hasn't quite gone to plan.
- ★ Thank you to all the staff who are showing great ingenuity and working tirelessly behind the scenes and screens.
- ★ Thank you to all the parents who are admirably supporting their children during this uncertain time. There have been so many positive messages of support as well as a number of treats sent in.
- ★ Thank you to the Lakers for the donation of chocolate from Tesco. A little bit of chocolate goes a long way!
- ★ Thank you to the Salvation Army who also delivered Easter eggs this week
- ★ Thank you to the Governors who have been supporting the strategic leadership of the school.
- ★ Finally thank you to the whole community who I know have been supporting each other during this time.

Stay safe and best wishes

Mrs Hayes-Smith

Head of School