

12th June 2020

Dear Parent/Carers,

Update:

I hope that you are all staying well and that you are welcoming the small changes to the things we can and cannot do. At The Wren School we are very conscious of the impact the lockdown has had, and is having, on our students. As you know, we are keeping a strong focus on wellbeing and remote learning. Once again this term, teams in school will be contacting every household to catch up with students and their families. This is being done via messages from students in response to the weekly Student Bulletin, via email and through phone calls. Please don't wait for contact from school if there is something you are concerned or worried about. We will also be working hard to improve remote learning where we possibly can. Please bear with us as we tackle these two activities.

This week we have seen the number of students in school increase a little and we move ahead with plans for small groups of year 10 students to come into school from next week. We have made changes in school to ensure social distancing can be maintained and that students and staff in school can be as safe as possible. These changes are in place to minimise contact between people in school and classrooms look very different with fewer desks. In addition we are using limited spaces and have introduced new cleaning regimes throughout the school.

For those children in school/small year 10 groups coming into school: Reminder that no child should come into school if they are feeling unwell and have possible coronavirus symptoms. The strongest guidance about remaining safe concerns cleaning hands more often than usual. We are all encouraged to regularly wash hands for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them.

Literacy Focus Week 2: 15th -19th June 2020:

We understand that some of the work set can be challenging, with this in mind, some selected students will be set alternative work on Class Charts, with a focus on literacy this week. If you think your son / daughter would also appreciate this work, please email selford@wren.excalibur.org.uk or their English teacher for a copy.

Reading at Home:

The answer is: 50,000. **The question is:** What is the typical vocabulary size of a SUCCESSFUL student leaving secondary school?

This year at The Wren School, we have done some work to help students to be more aware of words and foster their word consciousness. We know that having a broad vocabulary is a massive advantage in life and for academic success. It is a fact that 12-14 year olds that read often, and read independently, know 26% more words than those who never read.

We know that choosing the right book can be a minefield in a world full of so many other 'easier' distractions. With this in mind, our librarian Mrs Bird-Jaeger has chosen her top 15 books that we would recommend to students in years 7 and 8 to help them make the right decisions (when they might not). For more tips on how to help your child to engage with reading, check out the 7 top tips or contact your child's English teacher! *(Please see the attached pages for the year 7 and year 8 Reading Lists and the Top Tips.)*

Remote Learning:

As we finish week two of term 6, students should have completed two weeks of learning which includes hearing narrated PowerPoints and completing at least one quiz per subject. Students should currently be in the midst of submitting work to each department for WIN marking (with the exception of year 10 who submitted work at the end of term 5).

From Monday 15th June, teachers will be following a timetable when uploading work to Class Charts for year 10 students. This should help them manage their workload at home (and in school for one day a week if they have decided to do so). Years 7, 8 and 9 have been following their own timetable for the past two weeks which remains unchanged. Therefore, for **year 10 only** work will be set on the following days as detailed below:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
CORE PE	English	Maths	Science	Citizenship

All work from option subjects will be set on a Monday, which allows students to manage their workload across the week independently.

Wellbeing:

To support parents during COVID-19, the National Crime Agency's Child Exploitation and Online Protection division are producing fortnightly activity packs to help staying safe online with your children. These age-appropriate resources, containing two 15-minute activities for each age group, can be found at www.thinkuknow.co.uk. Key safeguarding messages can be found at <https://www.berkshirewestsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk/scp>

We may be a couple of weeks into June but the calendar below gives parents and students some lovely daily ideas for improving wellbeing. Maybe you could do 2 a day!

JOYFUL JUNE (EVEN IN DIFFICULT TIMES) 2020

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1 Decide to look for what's good, even on the difficult days	2 Re-frame a worry and try to find a positive way to respond	3 Think of 3 things you're grateful for and write them down	4 Show your appreciation to those who are helping others	5 Smile and be friendly, even while you're social distancing	6 Notice the upsides during the lockdown, however small	7 Find a joyful way of being physically active (indoors or out)
8 Write a letter to thank someone for what they did	9 Find the joy in music today: sing, play, dance or listen	10 Take a photo of something that brings you joy and share it	11 Say positive things in your conversations with others today	12 Make a plan with friends to do something fun together	13 Appreciate the joy of nature and the beauty in the world around	14 Do three things to bring joy to other people today
15 Rediscover a fun childhood activity that you can enjoy today	16 Ask a loved one what they feel grateful for at the moment	17 Be kind to you. Treat yourself the way you would treat a friend	18 Send a positive note to a friend who needs encouragement	19 Create a list of favourite memories you feel grateful for	20 Make time to do something playful today, just for the fun of it	21 Enjoy trying a new recipe or cooking your favourite food
22 Share a happy memory with someone who means a lot to you	23 Look for something to be thankful for where you least expect it	24 Thank a friend for the joy they bring into your life	25 Eat food that makes you feel good and really savour it	26 See the upside in a difficult situation you learnt from	27 Watch something funny and enjoy how it feels to laugh	28 Create a playlist of your favourite songs and enjoy them
29 Take time to do something that makes you happy today	30 Make a list of the joys in your life (and keep adding to them)	"Every day may not be good, but there is something good in every day" ~ Alice Morse Earle				

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

www.actionforhappiness.org

30 actions to look after ourselves and each other as we face this global crisis together

Keep Calm · Stay Wise · Be Kind

Berkshire Healthcare is launching a new School Nursing advice and support line for children, young people and their families, to offer health advice and referral into the service for on-going support if needed. The line will be available from 9am-4.30pm, Monday to Friday.

You can access this service by dialing **0118 9312111** and selecting '**Option 4**' to speak to a School Nurse from our team.

Art work by Isabella Bache



Kind regards,

Mr S Duffy – Interim Principal