

Thursday 11th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We will be closing for the half term holiday on Friday 12th February. School will reopen for vulnerable children and children whose parents are critical workers on Tuesday 23rd February. We await a government announcement about the return to school for all pupils which we understand will be shortly after the holiday.

Reception

All children in reception have been issued with a log in for Bug Club. Parents/carers were asked to read the notifications on Seesaw and acknowledge that they have read it. If you have not done so please do so. This notification is for all parents/carers and children, both in school and working at home. The system will remain in place until children can take reading books home again. You do not need to post reading on Seesaw as the uptake of each individual child can be monitored on Bug Club. If you have difficulty accessing this please contact pgill@ipmat.co.uk

Risk Assessment updated 08.02.21

Please follow the link for an updated copy of the Risk Assessment.
<https://gawthorpeacademy.co.uk/covid19>

Staff self-testing

As you may have seen in the press, primary schools have been issued with lateral flow tests for staff. Testing in our school has commenced this week. The tests are designed to recognise asymptomatic cases of COVID 19 so that transmission can be reduced. Tests are taken twice a week (every 3-4 days). We have asked staff who opt in, to do their tests on Sunday evening and Wednesday evening. If staff report a positive result this may lead to bubble closure, depending upon recent contact in school.

Please ensure you check your emails on Sunday and Wednesday evenings for any 'bubble' closures.

Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet day was on Tuesday 9th February. Children took part in activities in school to revisit learning about staying safe on line. The theme this year was "Express Yourself". Please see the information attached.

Website

We will be launching our new website in the next few weeks. Consequently, you may experience some difficulty accessing information. Any important announcements will be sent by email. Our Twitter feed and Facebook page will be regularly updated with any important updates.

TTRS – TimeTables Rockstar

Years 1 – Year 6 children IDs have been emailed out to parents.
Please keep this information safe and we look forward to your child signing onto the program and enjoying the many tasks they can use.

Interventions

We are putting together a programme of interventions within school and inviting children remotely. If your child is part of an intervention group you will be contacted by email to invite them to join and a teams invite will be sent.

The invite will come from either the learning mentor, Diane Croisdale, 07789286870 or the school phone number not an unknown mobile.

Reporting Covid Cases

Please make sure you let us know immediately if your child has tested positive as we need to act quickly to inform Public Health England as well as inform parents and staff of any necessary closures and isolation requirements. Please email gca-enquiries@ipmat.co.uk.

Positive Covid Tests and Self Isolation

The government recommend that the NHS COVID 19 App is downloaded. If you test positive or are identified as a contact of someone who has recently tested positive for COVID-19, you will receive an email/text alert from the NHS Test and Trace Service advising that you must now self-isolate as soon as possible and stay at home. The message will advise the date of the isolation period and it is a legal duty to comply with this.

Schools will be asking staff and parents to provide evidence of the need to self-isolate so that an accurate record can be kept in school.

If you have any issues providing this information, please email gca-enquiries@ipmat.co.uk

Picture News

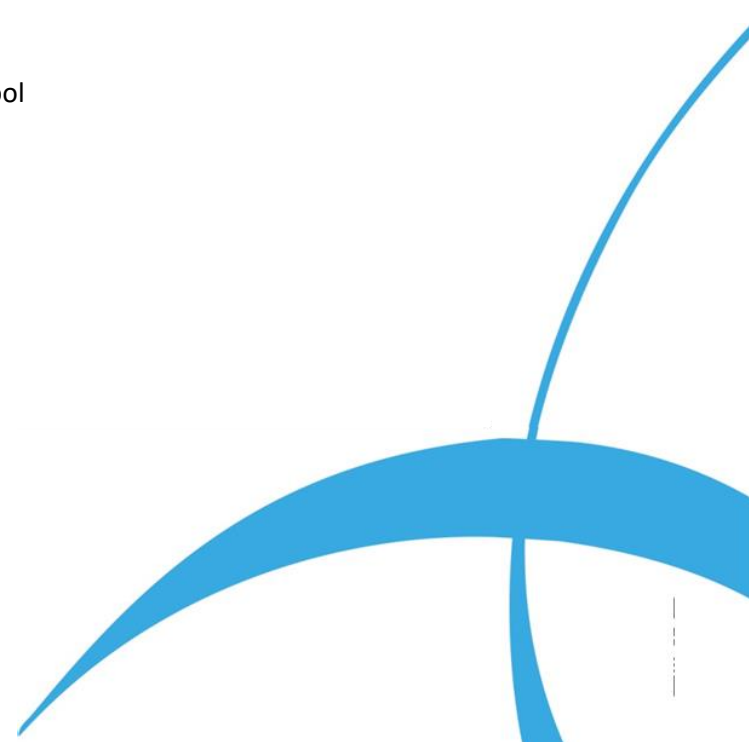
Please find attached this week's Picture News poster. Picture News is a resource used in school to promote discussion around current issues. Each week there is a homework activity with an image and a question. We would encourage you to talk about this at home with the children. There are no right or wrong answers, it is a forum for discussion.



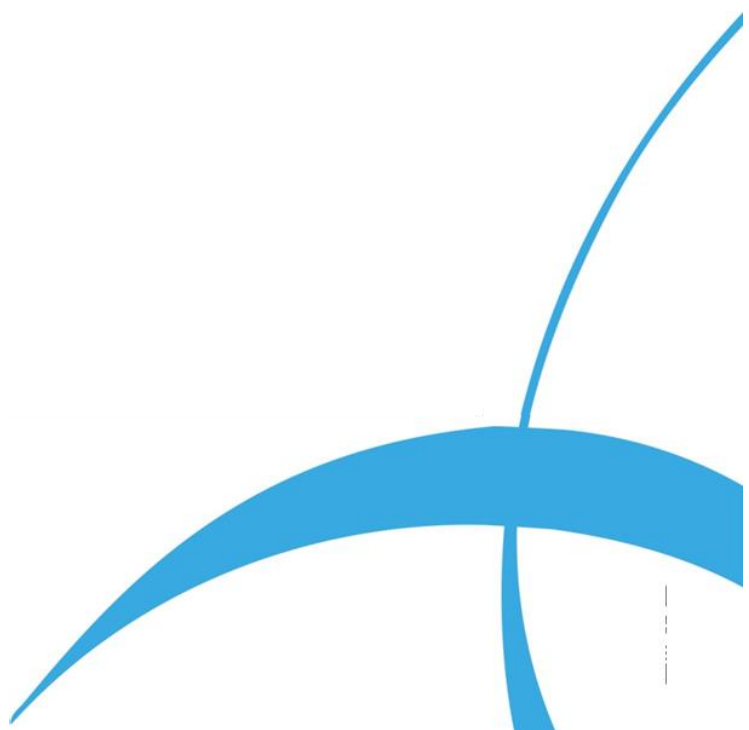
Mrs C Harris
Head of School



Mrs P Gill
Deputy Head of School



<u>Upcoming Diary Dates</u>		
Dates	Event	Who is it for?
Tuesday 9 th February	Safer Internet Day	Whole School
Friday 12 th February	Break up for half term	All children
Monday 22 February	INSET	
Tuesday 23 February	School returns	
Thursday 4 March	World Book Day	
Friday 19 March	Comic Relief Day	
w/c 21st March	Celebrating World Poetry	



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one issue of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

7 Top Tips for Supporting Children to EXPRESS THEMSELVES SAFELY ONLINE

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

The past year has left many children feeling uncertain and worried. So Children's Mental Health Week 2021 has adopted the theme of 'express yourself'. It's not necessarily about being the best – but instead encouraging young people to relish the joy of being 'in the moment' and loving what they do. So whether they're into music, art, photography, film, drama or dance, here are our top tips for helping your child to express themselves safely online.

1 Celebrate their Identity

Celebrating who children are and reminding them of their uniqueness has a huge impact on their confidence and self-esteem. This week, remind them of what you love about them. You could revisit some photos and videos on your phone or computer of special times you've shared. Chat about the importance of finding time to do what they love; underline that it's an important part of who they are.

2 Promote Their Passions

It's different for all of us, but every child has something which ignites their passions and brings them joy. Perhaps they love music and you could introduce them to a music-making app? Or if they enjoy taking photos or making videos, use this week to set a photography or video competition at home, with some fun categories.

3 Support Their Interests

Some children seem to know instinctively what interests them and what they enjoy doing; others can be less decisive about hobbies. Spend some time this week sharing their interests and doing something connected to it together. You could make a short Lego film to post on your Instagram, a vlog about baking that you share with relatives, or just play with them on their favourite video game.

4 Help Them Help Others

Some children love to express themselves through activities which help others. Perhaps your local area's Facebook group has a community project that your family could get involved with – even as a one-off; it doesn't have to be a long-term commitment. Depending on your child's age, you could introduce them to online fundraising (such as sites like Just Giving, for example) and how it can make a difference to less fortunate people.

5 Enable Emotional Expression

Children sometimes need help in articulating how they're feeling and in beginning to understand how to manage their emotions. A safe, healthy way for your child to explore their feelings is to let them conduct an activity – like listening to a story, or creating some art – and discuss with them afterwards how it made them feel. There are lots of stories available on YouTube, while Audible is streaming children's audiobooks free of charge while schools are closed. YouTube also has a plethora of fun art tutorials (if you log in on an adult's account, remember to adjust your settings first to block inappropriate content and stop potentially unsuitable material auto-playing).

6 Let Them Stay Connected

The online world is a fantastic space for staying in contact with those who we can't be with right now. Young people are often very comfortable using social media to express themselves and stay connected by sharing their ideas, thoughts and feelings with friends. But bear in mind that most social media platforms require a child to be at least 13 before they should access it (WhatsApp is 16). Remind your child that, while it's OK to express who we are on social media, they should still always think before posting – and that their self-worth is never measured by their number of likes, friends or followers.

7 Coach 'Safe Sharing'

As part of expressing themselves, your child may want to share something online that they've created – like a funny video, a sketch, a meme or a dance. If they're too young to have their own social media, you could use your own account to share it with selected people who you trust. Emphasise the importance of only sharing content with people that your child knows well, like family and friends. This type of conversation is also useful for introducing young people to the risks and challenges that can come when expressing ourselves to a wider online audience of strangers.

Meet Our Expert

Anna Bateman is passionate about placing prevention at the heart of every school, integrating mental wellbeing within the curriculum, school culture and systems. She is also a member of the advisory group for the Department for Education, advising them on their mental health green paper.



About Children's Mental Health Week

Around three children in every primary school class has a mental health problem. Many more struggle with challenges from bullying to bereavement. Now in its seventh year, Children's Mental Health Week shines a spotlight on the importance of young people's mental health – and it's never seemed more relevant than it does in 2021.

Find out more at www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk



Picture News

at Home

8th February 2021
What's going on this week?



8th-14th February
**How important is it to
plant more trees?**

Tree planting is a good solution to tackle climate change and protect biodiversity but planting trees in the wrong place can do more harm than good experts at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew have explained. Scientists have outlined 10 rules for tree-planting, which they say must be a top priority for all nations this decade.

Things to talk about at home...

- 🌱 Talk about what you already know about trees? Do you know about different types and what we need them for?
- 🌱 Are there many trees near where you live?
- 🌱 Scientists have said that it is important that places where new trees are planted need to be carefully planned, why do you think this may be the case?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments here...



Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others on our discussion board: www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss