



# Great Wood Keeping In Touch Spring Term 1



## School Contact Details



Telephone: 01538 702355 option 4

Email: [office@greatwood.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@greatwood.staffs.sch.uk)

Text: +441538542095

Website: [www.tmpf.staffs.sch.uk](http://www.tmpf.staffs.sch.uk)

## To Our Great Wood Family

Welcome to the first term of 2021. We had hoped that this might be a more normal term, but following the government's announcement on the 4th of January, this has not come to fruition. As a school we are working hard to reduce the risk of Covid-19 and are therefore sticking to the current guidelines. The start of our live and classroom lessons (for Key Worker and vulnerable children) has been received extremely well. We would like to thank everyone for all the positive feedback, that we have had from our Great Wood families. This way of educating our children, is a learning curve for our team and parents alike. We really appreciate your continuing support and urge you to contact one of our amazing team, should you be experiencing any difficulties. We are here to help, but we can't help unless you have let us know that there is an issue.

Please let us know if we can be of assistance, in anyway.

Stay safe and thank you.

## A helping Hand With Meals

During these uncertain times, we understand that families may have had a change in circumstances. Whichever year group your child is in, if you think you may now be eligible for income-based Free School Meals, we would urge you to submit an application. This also applies to children who currently receive a lunch due to being in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2.

During this period of school closure, children who are eligible to receive income-based Free School Meals will have the option to receive a hamper with food for a weeks worth of lunches, or at a later date, possibly vouchers (TBC).

Applications are quick and easy with an instant yes, or no answer as to your entitlement. The link can be found on the website at [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Educational-awards-benefits/FreeSchoolMeals/Apply-online](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Educational-awards-benefits/FreeSchoolMeals/Apply-online)

Please contact us at [office@greatwood.staffs.sc.uk](mailto:office@greatwood.staffs.sc.uk) if you qualify and we will be able to help with food equivalent to a packed lunch at school.



## Gloves, Hats and Scarves

Please can we remind parents of Key Worker children that it is very cold on the playground at the moment (especially if it is windy), so please can you ensure that your child/children have suitable outdoor clothing. Gloves, hats and scarves are a huge help, in fighting off the cold.



**STAY AT HOME**



**PROTECT THE NHS**



**SAVE LIVES**



## FROST, ICE AND SNOW ...WHICH WAY TO GO!

In the event of any icy/snowy conditions Mrs Wilkinson will be working very hard to ensure our safety, by gritting the paths into school on icy mornings. Please can all parents, children (and staff) make sure they walk only on the pathways, that she has gritted. To help maintain social distancing, please allow space for others to pass on the gritted area.

In the unusual (and rare!) event that we have to close due to health and safety issues caused by snow or ice, we will endeavour to contact you through text message and also aim to also put a message on the school website ([www.tmpf.staffs.sch.uk](http://www.tmpf.staffs.sch.uk)).

**With this in mind, please remember to keep the school office updated with any change in contact details, should, for example, Santa have brought you a new phone for Christmas!**



Thank you to those who have already logged on our new Arbor Parent Portal. In just a week we have had an 85% uptake, which is amazing!

The portal can be used to access your child/children's profiles and to top up your child's break, dinner and Wrap Around accounts.

We have found that the desktop version of Arbor works best on a laptop, or tablet, where there is an add to basket feature for topping up different accounts. There is an app version available for smart phones, however this does not have the add to basket feature at present.

All outstanding balances/credits have been added to your child's accounts, for you to see, we would appreciate any outstanding payments being made as soon as possible.

We would now kindly ask that you "top up" as much as possible online and refrain from sending cash payments to school. Children will go back to ordering their break snacks with their teacher each morning. Please ensure that your child knows what they are allowed to order for their snacks, as the cost of their snack will be added to their account.

If you are having trouble accessing or navigating the site, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will be happy to help.

## IT'S GOOD TO TALK

Don't wait until you can't cope before you seek help. For good days, bad days and all the in-between days, there are lots of places you can turn to for support.



**IT'S ALWAYS OK TO ASK FOR HELP**

## THANK YOU AND STAY SAFE

We would like to extend a huge thank you to our Great Wood family, for embracing our remote learning, through Microsoft Teams. It has been great to see our children during the online sessions, alongside teaching the children of Critical Workers within the classroom.

The work that our children have been submitting (often with your help!) has been amazing. It is fabulous to see the effort and commitment that our Great Wood children are showing, during these difficult and challenging times. We do appreciate that this is not always easy and can be, at times taxing and frustrating, but it is for the best reason. By adhering to the government guidelines and staying at home, wherever possible, we are playing our part in the battle against Covid-19.

Thank you for working with us. Please remember if you need our help, we are here.

Take care and please stay safe.

## ADVICE ON HOW TO KEEP YOUR CHILD SAFE ONLINE

As you may now be using online devices on a daily basis to support learning, or perhaps your child has received a Playstation, Xbox, Nintendo Switch, tablet, laptop, mobile phone etc for Christmas, we are sure that you will agree that it is essential your child is safe in the online world. Therefore, we wanted to share some e-safety advice.



**6 essentials to keep your children safe online** - Follow this list to help keep your children safe online:

1. **Use parental controls** to block upsetting or harmful content, control in-app purchases, or manage how long your child spends online. They're really easy to set up too. More information about setting controls on mobiles, tablets, home broadband, games consoles, apps, wifi, films, music and TV is on the NSPCC web pages, ([www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)) and there's a useful helpline number too.
2. **Regularly remind your children not to give out personal information**, like their address, phone number, school name, or email address. It can be easy to forget with live streaming videos (like YouTube) that anyone could be watching and it's important not to give away too much information about *themselves*.
3. **Get to know the games, apps and social media sites they use**. Learn how to use them yourself and how their 'privacy', 'block' and 'reporting' settings work.
4. **Make sure they know that people aren't always who they say they are online** and that they don't accept friend requests from people they don't know (even if the person has mutual friends, it doesn't mean they can be trusted).
5. **Talk about the risks of sharing photos** online, or sending them to others. Once they're out there, they're out there!
6. **Let them know that you're listening** and want to know if anything at all makes them feel uncomfortable online, no matter what.

*Please also make yourself aware of the age restriction of certain social media platforms, for example **Whatsapp is for 16+, Snapchat is for 13+, and TikTok is for 13+.***

*Please also be aware of the content of online gaming, for example, **Fortnite is rated as suitable for 12+.** These controls are to there to simply keep your child safe in the online world.*

### **Need to know more?**

*These are the places you can find good advice and guidance:*

**NSPCC** ( [www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/) ) great for easy-to-follow parental control guides and knowing what to talk about;

**Think u know** ( [www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents) ) great if you're concerned, need to understand social media or are worried about online abuse;

**Staffordshire Police** (<https://www.staffordshire.police.uk/police-forces/staffordshire-police/areas/staffordshire-police/campaigns/2019/cyber-bullying/>) explains cyber bullying and online harassment;

**Internetmatters** ([www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org)) great for cyberbullying advice;

CEOP Child exploitation and online protection command ([www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre](http://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre)) - if you suspect abuse report it to one of their specialist advisers now.

Advice on keeping children safe can also be found on our school website, **[www.tmpf.staffs.sch.uk](http://www.tmpf.staffs.sch.uk)**

We hope you find the above information useful, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.





HM Government

# AT HOME SHOULDN'T MEAN AT RISK OF DOMESTIC ABUSE #YOUARENOTALONE



If you are controlled or physically, sexually, economically or emotionally abused by a partner, ex-partner or family member, this is domestic abuse. Household isolation rules do not apply.

Police and support services remain available.

If you are in immediate danger, or suspect someone else is, call 999.

If you are unable to talk, call 999, listen to the operator and then either press 55 on a mobile, when prompted, or wait on a landline to be connected to the police, who will be able to help.

If you're worried you, or someone you know, may be experiencing domestic abuse:

**Refuge** The Freephone 24-hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline run by Refuge offers support for women: 0808 2000 247

**Respect** Men's advice line The free Respect Men's Advice Line offers support for men: 0808 801 0327



Galop's free National LGBTQ+ Domestic Abuse Helpline offers support for LGBTQ+ people: 0800 999 5428

**Respect** Phonenumber The free Respect Phonenumber offers support for men and women who are harming their partners and families: 0808 802 4040

**NSPCC** The free NSPCC helpline offers support for anyone worried about a child: 0808 800 5000

Find more support, online and text relay services at [gov.uk/domestic-abuse](https://gov.uk/domestic-abuse)

## Staff Car Park

Whilst we appreciate that there are less children in school at the moment, it is, of course, still our primary concern to keep them safe. Please can we remind everyone that NO vehicles are permitted down on to the school car park, other than those belonging to staff, or pre-arranged visitors (which is not happening at the moment). There are no exceptions, unless an arrangement has been agreed by the school office. This also includes people dropping off to, or picking up from Wrap Around Care, please do not bring your vehicles down the school drive. This rule is in place to protect our Great Wood children and their families.

In addition please can we remind you not to park on the yellow zig zags on the road by the school drive. This is illegal and a very dangerous hazard for our Great Wood children and families.

Also, please could we ask you to use the pathways provided (adhering to social distancing) and not take a shortcut across the car park, where cars may be moving.

Please help us to keep our Great Wood family safe. Thank you.



At this time of year, it's important to **Be Bright and Be Seen** when you are out and about near roads.

**BE BRIGHT** – wear fluorescent or brightly coloured clothing when walking to and from school – it shows up well in daylight and at dusk.

**REFLECTIVE** – When it's dark outside, wear reflective clothing to be seen in car headlights. Reflective vests, sashes or wristbands work well.

**IMPROVE** – improve your visibility with accessories, clip on reflectors, armbands and stickers added to your coat or bag are a great way to improve your visibility.

**GREEN CROSS CODE** – always choose routes and crossing places that are well lit and remember to use the Green Cross Code.

**HEADLIGHTS** – if you like to cycle, it's the law to have clean and working headlights on your bike at night (white at the front, red at the back) as well as a rear reflector. It's good to fit spoke reflectors too.