

SHINCLIFFE C. of E. (CONTROLLED) PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Thursday 14th January

Dear Parents,

I hope you are all keeping safe and well in these very difficult circumstances.

REMOTE LEARNING- Years 1-6

Thank you to you all for engaging so readily with remote learning. Below is some further information about using DB Primary. We hope this is helpful.

Tasks

- These can be found in the 'Things to do' section on your child's login page.
- From 6pm the night before children will be set tasks by their teacher for 24 hours.
- However, even though the task will say it is 'overdue' after this time, it will be available until it is completed or the task is closed by their teacher.
- To complete a task, you will either have to click on 'FINISHED' or 'UPLOAD A FILE' to show completion of the work.
- Your class teacher will mark what is uploaded into the task area.
- All tasks from the past week will be removed from the 'Things to do' section on a weekly basis.

Forum

- Each day your class teacher will upload a video to discuss the work for the day and feedback on any issues encountered the previous day.
- When asking a question, you must respond to the forum started that day by the teacher, unless a specific forum post has been set.
- Your teacher will be teaching children in class and will respond to any forum posts as soon as possible.

Please do what you can to support your children, but please remember that you should not feel that there is necessarily a right or wrong approach. We understand the huge pressure that families are under.

We are also going to be sharing a range of resources via DB Primary linked to wellbeing and exercise. Please access these as you wish.

It is vitally important that we all stay safe online. The school website contains useful support and guidance on Online Safety. Please do make use of this. Further information from Durham County Council is below which may be of use to you.

We are aware that access to data can be an issue for some families. If anyone meets the following criteria we are able to request mobile data increases for use by your children:

- You do not have fixed broadband at home
- You cannot afford additional data for your children's devices
- This is interrupting the delivery of home learning for your children.

If this applies to you, then please contact the School Office for support.

KEY WORKER PLACES

I wrote to you last week explaining that we were experiencing increasing demand for key worker places and asked you to only use this provision if necessary. I thank parents for their response in only using the provision as necessary and, in turn, reducing the pressure on school places. **Please continue to use this provision only if you need to.** This helps us to keep everyone safe by keeping numbers accessing the school site to a minimum.

I thank parents for your continued support at this time.

Stay safe and stay well.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Tait

DCC Online Safety advice for parents and carers during Covid 19

Parents and carers will want to make sure that their children are as safe as possible.

Parental Controls

Almost all devices allow parental controls to be set. These can be adjusted depending on the ages of the children. They can:-

- Stop children putting new apps on a device until the parents approve them
- Reduce the chance of a child accidentally spending money on virtual goods
- Limit the time that children use a device without having a break

A good starting point is the internet matters website <https://www.internetmatters.org/> , go to the SETTING CONTROLS section at the top!

Talking

Probably the best thing you can do to help your son or daughter is to talk to them regularly about how they use technology, which apps and sites they use and who their online friends are. Some children struggle with online relationships perhaps either sending or receiving hurtful messages. Parents and carers will be able to help guide youngsters through this difficult area. If children receive unpleasant messages these can usually be reported and each app or site will have a different way of doing this.

Apps and Sites

The list of apps and websites children are using grows by the minute so printed advice is likely to be out of date. In the UK the NSPCC have a site called Net-Aware <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/> which explains many current apps, the risks and the benefits of their use. More apps are listed on the American site Common Sense Media <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/>

Activities for Children

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/> is the website aimed at children and their parents from the National Crime Agency. It has lots of useful suggestions and advice on how to report issues. It also has games and activities including Jessie and Friends for the younger children and Band Runner for the older ones.

For the youngest children being tricked into sharing pictures can be an issue. LGfL have produced a lovely free video <https://undressed.lgfl.net/> which has some great advice and a very catchy song!

More Help?

Children can call Childline on 0800 1111 for advice on anything that is worrying them.

Finally since 2015 it has been a criminal offence for an adult to send a message with sexual content to a child (This is Section 67 of the Serious Crime Act 2015). If you are concerned that this might have happened please contact The Police without further using the device. This will help ensure that evidence can be preserved. The Police can be contacted by phone or from the Thinkuknow website.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>