

## SHINCLIFFE C. of E. (CONTROLLED) PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

Dear Parents,

I hope you continue to keep well during these difficult times.

Today would have marked the beginning of the Easter holidays. How very different they look to that usual two weeks of springtime rest and relaxation. That said, our children need a rest and a period of relaxation in whatever form they are able given the current government constraints.

Our DB Primary learning platform will be updated with additional class resources to support your children with their learning at home after the Easter holiday period. I will update you further then. No further resources will be added during the holiday period.

I again reinforce the importance of children being safe online. Any work set is via DB Primary and this platform is secure. The class forum pages are the only areas in which children are able to interact online and these are monitored by staff. Parents and carers may choose to supplement our offer with support from online companies and in some cases individual tutors. There is no need to do this. However, should parents choose to do so, I emphasise the importance of securing online support from a reputable organisation/individual who can provide evidence that they are safe and can be trusted to have access to children. The school website has also been updated with some useful support and guidance on Online Safety. Please do make use of this. Further information from Durham County Council is below.

School will remain open for a very small number of pupils whose parents are key workers during the Easter Holiday period. I am hugely grateful to all of the staff in allowing us to offer this service by working during their holidays.

The school email address: [shincliffece@durhamlearning.net](mailto:shincliffece@durhamlearning.net) will continue to be monitored and can be used for any **urgent** queries. Again, this is dependent on staff availability and there may be a delay in our ability to respond. **Please only contact us during the Easter holiday period if absolutely necessary and you are a key worker parent.** The School Office is closed so please do not telephone us. Your call cannot be answered.

For updates, please continue to use the dedicated Coronavirus section of the School Website: <http://www.shincliffe.durham.sch.uk/parents/coronavirus-update/>

Yours sincerely  
Mr Tait

## **DCC Online Safety advice for parents and carers during Covid 19**

Many families will be encouraging their children to make good use of technology while we start the second week of lockdown with no opportunities to see their classmates “in real life”. Technology can help us all stay in touch safely but 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?

The NSPCC have teamed up with O2 <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-we-do/about-us/partners/nspcc-o2-online-safety-partnership/> to provide advice to parents and have a free helpline on 0808 800 5002. They will also give support in any O2 shop – you do not have to be an O2 customer.

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/>