

RIPLEY ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

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9 October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had our first online parents' evening this week and the new system seemed to run smoothly. I know a number of you have commented that you preferred this system to coming in and waiting in busy corridors. It's true that sometimes good things can emerge out of how we are needing to adapt to the current constraints. We will certainly need to be using this system for the foreseeable future.

Parent App Firefly

You are able to access your child's 'Firefly' account using the Firefly Parent App. You will be able to see your child's homework and also access the 'virtual curriculum' on the Blended Learning landing page.

This is where the work is being set for children who are off school or are needing to self-isolate so that they can keep up with their learning. The work set on these pages is a direct reflection of the work being taught in lessons, wherever possible. Please refer to Mrs Best's letter sent on Thursday for more information regarding this. It is vital that pupils catch up on any work missed whilst they are off school.

Please see the attached help sheet from Mr Cairns which explains how to access the Parent App.

Local Restrictions

We are very fortunate to have made it through six weeks in school without a positive case of COVID. As you know, we are working very hard to keep everyone safe with lots of restrictions on what we can and can't do and extra hygiene measures in place.

As you will be aware, local restrictions are in place in our area. These state that we are not allowed to socialise with anyone outside of our household or support bubbles, either in our homes or our gardens.

This means that children should not be going to their friends' houses to socialise.

We know this is hard for everyone, but I ask that you support us in our efforts by following the guidelines outside school. We want to make sure that your children stay well and that they can remain in school.

#helloyellow

Today staff wore **yellow** to raise awareness for World Mental Health Day. We know that our young people may be struggling more with anxiety and mental ill health at this time. There is always someone at school they can talk to; please encourage them to speak to their progress tutor, progress leader, a trusted teacher or Michael our chaplain if they are struggling. As you will be aware, we are also working with Mind charity; their website is a useful source of advice and support www.mind.org.uk



Yours faithfully,

Mrs C Walmsley
Principal

Believe.....