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Dear Parents/Carers

We are now at the end of week 2 of the term and it is brilliant to see so many engaging in online learning and sharing what they have been up to. We really appreciate the support you are providing. We do not underestimate the challenge keeping the children motivated and engaged.

We are required to track and monitor the engagement online and as I have said, it is great to see the enthusiasm. If you are struggling to use Google Classroom or to get your child to engage please let us know and we can help. We will continue to monitor this over the coming weeks.

Our School Uniform Supplier, School Wear Made Easy has discounted school uniform by 15% until Monday 4th May. Follow the link below.
<https://www.schoolwearnadeeasy.com/badged-school-uniform/a-d/b/barthol-chapel-primary-school>

A reminder that there are two holiday dates this term. The May Day Holiday is on Friday 8th May and the Occasional day Holiday is on Monday 1st June. Online learning will not be posted and we encourage the children (and yourself) to have a well deserved break from home learning.

I have been asked to share with you some wider safety information during this time. I have summarised the main information below with links to relevant websites. I appreciate that this is a time of communication overload and have tried my best to provide this is one communication rather than bombard you with endless emails.



Looking after yourself and your family

Spending lots more time in the house is hard and having children at home to look after can add more of a challenge. Add working from home, job worries, trying to keep the children entertained, it is no wonder there are feelings of stress and anxiety. While we are all focused on our physical health just now, it is just as important that we look after our mental health.

You can still contact your GP if you are finding things difficult at the moment (by phone if you think you may have symptoms of COVID-19).

NHS Inform has resources to help you keep on top of your mental health, so does the **SAMH website**.

Parent Club Scotland Website has a wealth of resources and useful information.
<https://www.parentclub.scot/topics/coronavirus>

Scam Share

Google reported this week that they are blocking around 18 million scam emails related to Covid-19 each day: a fifth of all hoax messages sent to Gmail accounts. Cyber criminals are taking advantage of people's uncertainty around developments relating to the pandemic and, as well as emails, are rapidly creating malicious websites and apps that appear similar to genuine software.

Use this link to head straight to this week's Scam Share:

<https://mailchi.mp/ba200398df1a/scam-share-bulletin>

Please be aware not everyone out there is trustworthy and some people will take advantage of this unusual situation at the present time.

Be Aware of people offering or selling:

- Virus testing kits
- Vaccines or miracle cures - there is currently no vaccine or cure.
- Overpriced or fake goods to protect yourself from coronavirus such as anti-bacterial products.
- Shopping or medication collection services.
- Home cleaning services

To report a scam, call Police Scotland on 101. Contact your bank immediately if you think you have been scammed.



Increase in Theft of Agricultural Plant

Police Scotland are reporting a spike in thefts of agricultural plant, in particular tractors and telehandlers across Scotland. If you notice anything unusual on your land and premises or when you are out and about in the countryside call Police Scotland on 101. If a crime is being committed call 999.

Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC)

Action Fraud has experienced an increase in the reporting of malicious calls and voicemails, to members of the public purporting to be from Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC). Fraudsters are spoofing genuine HMRC telephone numbers to deceive their victims over the phone.

In genuine cases, HMRC will initially make direct contact with you via post/letter and potentially follow up that letter with a phone call at a later date. If HMRC contact you via telephone they will quote the reference number on the initial letter you should have received. HMRC will not discuss something you are not already aware of, like a tax investigation, and will **NOT** demand immediate payment.

No one should live in fear - Women or Men

This message is being sent to all parents at this difficult time by request of Police Scotland. If you or anyone you know is experiencing domestic abuse, call 0800 027 1234 or visit <https://safer.scot/>

During these uncertain times, support services including Grampian Women's Aid, Grampian Rape Crises, Police Scotland and Aberdeenshire Council, continue to offer support, advice and guidance to anyone experiencing abuse. The Charity, Abused Men in Scotland (AMIS), supports men who are or have experienced domestic abuse.

Police Scotland Coronavirus (Covid-19) Survey

Police Scotland recognises the importance of understanding the views and priorities of Scotland's diverse communities. This is especially important during the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

They are carrying out a survey to provide a platform for those in all our communities to have their voice heard during these challenging times, and beyond. The feedback from the survey aims to capture people's feeling of safety and any concerns they have.



The survey which takes about 10 minutes to complete can be accessed via the link below.

<https://consult.scotland.police.uk/surveys/your-police-2020-2021>

Online Safety

As a Parent/Carer, especially during the difficult time we are all going through, you can find support to enhance your child's safety, security and awareness at a time when they will be spending more time online. Please have a look at the links below which are very informative, easy to follow and will provide the opportunity to start the discussion about online safety.

Thinkuknow is the online safety education programme from the National Crime Agency and there are home activity packs from the ages of 4yrs to 14+yrs to take support from.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/Parental-controls/>

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/support-your-child-at-home/>

Please continue to stay safe and positive. You are all doing a fantastic job which is appreciated by all the staff team. I am 100% confident that when we return to school, the Barthol Chapel community will bounce back and continue to provide a nurturing and happy environment for the children.

Yours sincerely

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Mr Adrian Anderson
Head Teacher

