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Dear Families,

We appreciate some parents and children may be worried about themselves, members of their family, or their friends becoming ill. There's lots of advice available on the internet about how to talk to your child about coronavirus.

The BBC's Newsround has published a useful video for children called [Coronavirus: Why it might not be as scary as it sounds.](#)

National Autistic Society

The National Autistic Society have [advice, guidance and a helpline](#) for parents', young people and staff.

Mencap

Mencap offers an [easy read guide to Coronavirus.](#)

Place2Be

Place2be has produced a [guide to helping parents answer questions from their children and to support family wellbeing.](#)

Young Minds

Young Minds offers [advice about talking to your child about Coronavirus and 10 tips from their Parents Helpline to support family wellbeing.](#)

Covibook

This is [an interactive resource designed to support and reassure children aged 7 and under, designed to help children explain and draw the emotions that they might be experiencing during the coronavirus outbreak.](#)

Children's Commissioner

The Children's Commissioner has produced a [guide to talking to your child about coronavirus.](#)

Online Safety

Given the current circumstances, it is completely understandable that children will want to use technology to keep in contact with one another. While there are many benefits to doing so, there are also many risks, especially when it involves them using new apps that you are both unfamiliar with.

One such app that has suddenly increased in popularity is Houseparty. Houseparty (which requires parental permission for under 13s) is an app that allows the user to enter group video chats with up to 8 people. With it comes inherent risks, such as the fact that chats can be with friends of friends (rather than just friends) and that chats can be recorded and then shared with a wider audience. Please take the time to look at the parent guide from National Online Safety, which contains the associated risks of Houseparty and advice for parents.

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides/what-parents-need-to-know-about-houseparty>

Similarly, if your child expresses an interest in using a similar app to connect with friends, such as Zoom, WhatsApp or Google Hangouts, please take the time to research the app online.

Christine Dickinson
CEO Kite Academy Trust



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