

## REMOTE LEARNING AND OTHER UPDATES

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I am writing to you, first of all, to thank you for your continued support during this extremely challenging time and to share with you how pleased I am with the level of engagement in remote learning I have seen from all of the children so far this half term. As a working parent I fully appreciate how difficult it is to home school whilst continuing to juggle the everyday tasks – you are all doing an amazing job, supporting your children and helping them as much as you possibly can! It has been fantastic to see the wonderful pieces of work children in all year groups have produced so far during this lockdown, ranging from some fantastic problem solving in maths, creative writing, detailed art work and even completing science investigations! It has also been wonderful to see so many of you engaging with our whole school competitions and I am really looking forward to seeing your completed art work for our ‘A View From my Window’ competition, as well as listening to your raps for our music competition! If you head on over to our whole school story on Class Dojo you will be able to see a sneak preview of our Foundation Stage Children’s rap – this might give you some ideas to get started with a rap of your own!

The purpose of this letter is to share with you all of the ways in which we are trying to engage our children while they are learning remotely, and to provide you with some further COVID-19 updates.

### **Remote Learning and Vulnerable Children/Critical Worker Provision**

As a school, we want the very best for all of our children and I am immensely proud of the remote learning we have in place. As well as teaching the children that are attending school at the moment, our staff have worked extremely hard to ensure our remote learning is as effective as possible. We have done this by reviewing last year’s lockdown provision, taking feedback from yourselves and from our children, learning from other schools and then deciding what is right for our children and school community. We have thought long and hard about our remote learning plans and are confident that what we are offering the children is high quality and engaging.

These are some of the things that make our remote learning successful:

- Daily welcome videos outlining the tasks for the day
- Weekly recommended timetables for each class to support with daily routines
- Daily pre-recorded teaching and learning videos of our teachers linked to the core subject areas
- Afternoon activities that are not solely device-based and continuation of our theme topics
- Intervention videos led by our fantastic support staff
- Daily reading opportunities for all children
- Daily bedtime stories for our youngest children
- Links to additional activities such as TT Rockstars, Oxford Owl, BBC Bitesize etc.
- Weekly celebration assembly videos

As we continually strive to improve our home learning offer we will be introducing some new initiatives over the next few weeks. From this week onwards we will be introducing **Wellbeing Wednesday** – this will give another opportunity for children to unplug and move away from their devices and complete fun and creative activities – these may be linked to art, crafts and design, fitness as well as activities such as construction and nature. We would love to hear your feedback about our Wellbeing Wednesdays and we ask that you please share photos and comments with your child’s class teachers via Dojo or even on our school Twitter account.

Mrs Mimms and Miss Abrahams have been trialling a **weekly live check-in session** with their class. These have been very well received and feedback from both parents and children has been positive and so, as a result, each class will be hosting their own live check-in session over the next two weeks. Your class teacher will be in touch in due course to share a link to Microsoft Teams to allow your child to join in with these sessions.

**Fun Time Friday** will be continuing across school. I know some year groups have already been accessing this weekly creative time but it will now be rolled out for every year group. There is no expectation for you to share outcomes from Fun Time Friday, the purpose of this session is to simply allow yourself and your child some time each week to step away from the devices and do something enjoyable together!

This Friday will also see the first **live Celebration assembly** led by myself and Mrs Vickers. We look forward to seeing as many families attend as possible. A link to this event will be shared via the Class Dojo app later this week alongside guidelines to ensure all attending stay safe whilst online.

As always, we are keen to gather your thoughts and ideas so that we ensure we provide our children with the best learning experience possible, be that in school or at home. Please contact your child's class teacher with any comments you may have about our remote learning offer.

#### **Half Term**

Half term break starts on **Monday 15th February** and we will be offering the children a number of activities and challenges that they can take part in during this week if they chose to – these will be entirely optional and you will not be asked to share evidence of the children completing these.

We will return to home learning/school on **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**.

#### **Staff Testing**

As you may have seen in the news recently, the government has organised for staff in primary schools to have access to lateral flow devices, which they will use each week to test themselves for COVID-19. This is to find asymptomatic cases and is designed to reduce the transmission of the virus. Although staff will be engaging with this programme we will continue to follow all of our existing policies and procedures outlined in our risk assessment in order to limit the spread of the virus.

Finally, I'd just like to thank you all for everything you are doing – I know this lockdown is extremely challenging and the January weather most certainly hasn't helped! Like yourselves, the staff in school want all of the children back in the classrooms as soon as possible. The government has announced this will not happen before 8th March and therefore please remember that we are here to help and we will do what we can to make things as easy as possible for yourselves and your children. Please do not be too hard on yourselves - the most important thing we want the children to do at home is to be safe and happy. If there are times when your child, or you, need a break, then take a break - play a game, watch a film, go for a walk and do not feel guilty!

Once again, thank you for your continued support - together, we will get through this!



Mrs L Ridge  
Headteacher