

Dear Parents and Carers,

I want to start this newsletter with thanking you all for supporting our efforts for home learning. I am fully aware that organising your life and supervising home learning is not easy. However, the quality of the work being submitted is superb.

As it is Mental Health awareness week next week, please look after yourselves and your family. We are living in very difficult times; with the published earliest return to school date of 8th March we will have added further anxiety for some of you. As I always say to the staff 'be kind to yourself'. With this in mind, teachers are setting a mental health awareness activity for each day next week, to help promote a better understanding of mental health, how to recognise emotions and look after ourselves. In addition, Woodspeen training have a selection of **FULLY FUNDED** courses that they are offering giving the opportunity to access Level 2 fully funded short courses that may be of interest to you, your colleagues, volunteers, friends and family during these strange and uncertain times. Please feel free to share the attached information.

I will be holding a whole school collective worship at 1.30pm on Monday 1st February. This is for all children, whether at school or at home. The link is below:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75194508830?pwd=bGx4U1VqYWZxeDd1eTVPaUhh2czBpUT09>

Meeting ID: 751 9450 8830

Passcode: 9j0tyE

I wanted to end on some good news:

- As I type, the year 5&6 bubble are doing the RSPB bird watching in the rain and loving it!
- We have snow drops blooming under the trees on the Junior site.
- I received a plaque from last year's year 6 pupils which will be put up outside the school. It had the following engraved on it- *Resilience 'We will get through this and come out of it stronger, more united and ready to face any challenge together'- Captain Sir Tom Moore.*

Mrs Price

Key Worker Provision

Our Key worker provision is full, we have asked parents to try and reduce their number of days and the majority have done so. We have 41% of the children attending school in any 1 week. Unfortunately, we are not able to extend this provision to other children after half term, even to those children of Key Workers.

Home learning

Please remember that all home learning must be received by 3pm. Staff have put aside time to mark the work. Any arriving after this time will not get any feedback. We are happy to see all the work that is being done at home, but comments and feedback will only be given for the work that follows the zoom meeting and is highlighted on the timetable.

Lateral flow testing for staff

All staff in school have tested negative on the two lateral flow tests this week- Hurrah!

Survey Monkey survey on need for Half term holiday care

We will not be hosting any February half term holiday provision in school. However, the Local Authority has asked us to survey all key workers to see how great the need is. The survey will only be sent to our known key workers. Please make sure you fill it in by 9am Monday morning, so that we can send the information to the Local Authority.

Virtual Storybooks

The Story Readers charity is continuing to publish new material weekly.

Please go to <https://www.schoolreaders.org/storytime> and use the password emailed with the newsletter. There are books for every age, from David McKee's and Julia Donaldson to David Walliams and Quentin Blake for older children.

Zoom rules for learning

We have been using zoom for our daily teaching for a few weeks now. This has been a learning curve for everyone! The teachers feel now is the time to introduce a few simple rules, to keep our focus on learning.

- No background picture, it is distracting, and some pictures mean you disappear!
- Keep yourself on mute, unless answering a question.
- Keep your device a sensible distance from your face.
- Behave as you would in the classroom, paying attention and focusing on your teacher.
- Do not use the chat function, unless you have a question or are asked to respond.

...and remember, we CAN see you and do notice what you are doing!!