

Friday 29th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We continue to be so impressed with the children at home and in school. The children are producing some fantastic work and the level of engagement is really high. Well done to all the children and parents. We are aware that with each passing week, the challenge of motivating and inspiring children to engage with Remote Learning increases. You are all doing a fantastic job, thank you.

Wellbeing Wednesday 3rd February

Next week is Children's Mental Health week. During the week different activities will be sent home to support and raise awareness of maintaining good mental health.

On Wednesday we will have a special day dedicated to wellbeing. Our lives are full of colour and we can use colour to help make sense of how we're feeling, who we are and the world we live in. So on Wednesday the children can wear their favourite colour or choose a range of colours that express how they're feeling. Colour can be very personal and mean different things to different people, so this is a great opportunity to encourage self-expression and celebrate a diverse range of emotions.

This doesn't need to be a whole outfit – I will not be coming to school dressed head to toe in yellow! However, it could be a coloured top and jeans. This is for children in school as well so no school uniform on Wednesday.

There will still be the usual online class sessions on Wednesday but the day's activities will be around feeling good about ourselves and off-screen activities.

Routines for home learning

We are so proud of all the remote learning that has been going on but when children are doing the remote learning it can be easy to get out of usual school routines. It is still important that the children are doing the work just during the school day and sticking to normal bedtimes. We have had some yr 6 children submitting work late at night when they should be resting. Whilst I commend the children for submitting the work, late at night is not the time to be doing school work. Please monitor your children and check they are working at sensible hours and having regular breaks. The guidance is 4 hours a day for Years 3-6 which gives time for breaks and other activities and exercise during the day.

We have also had a very small number of children who are not being sensible on the online chat facility during the zoom sessions. Unfortunately, this means we may in some classes need to disable the chat function altogether. Please remind your children that these sessions are still a lesson and their behaviour should be as good as it would be in school.

Return to school

This week the government announced that schools would remain closed to most pupils until Monday 8th March. Whilst it is disappointing not to be able to return straight after half term, I understand the reasons behind this. Unfortunately, as we are all aware the virus is still transmitting at a high rate. During the week of 22nd February we should learn more about how the lockdown will be eased and therefore find out how more children might begin to return. Please be mindful that this may involve a staggered or gradual return.

Best wishes

Mrs Taylor-Bashford