

Tuesday 5 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

School closure and home learning

As you will no doubt be aware, the government has now instructed all schools to close to the majority of children until at least the end of the February half-term holiday. All at school are very disappointed that we will not be able to welcome everyone until then, but of course the safety of children, families, staff and communities is paramount and closure has become unavoidable.

School remains open to vulnerable children and the children of key workers on days when they are working and no other childcare options are available.

Ambiguity about school openings and rising COVID-19 infection rates have caused a lot of anxiety for everyone in recent weeks, but at least we now have some clarity about this half-term. We appreciate your understanding about the pressure that schools are under at the moment, and want to make this new period of closure as manageable as possible for all concerned.

Home learning

Until children can return to school, teachers will be regularly posting new tasks and resources for home learning. Class 1 children will find material on Tapestry, while children in Classes 2 and 3 will find it on Seesaw. We will stay in touch about updates via School Spider, and are ready to help you with any access issues.

Teachers aim to support all pupils as much as they can, and in due course we hope to introduce some face-to-face teaching so children can see their friends and teachers. Please bear with us while we plan the necessary arrangements and settle into a new way of working.

Remote learning can be challenging, especially when parents and carers have to combine childcare, work and other commitments. We also know that some people will feel worried that their children will not be making as much progress as they would in school. This is completely understandable.

However, we want to reassure you that children's safety and wellbeing is by far the biggest priority at the moment. It is very important to us that both children and parents/carers feel as relaxed as they can be in these difficult times. They should not feel pressured to meet any targets, and when we can return to normal lessons teachers will be ready to provide support to children who need to catch up with their learning. In the meantime, whatever support you are able to give your children will be fantastic.

Thank you

Thank you for your patience at a time of so much uncertainty about schools. Staff and governors care deeply about our children, and want to work with you to ensure they remain as

happy as possible this half-term. We sincerely hope that the rollout of a coronavirus vaccine means we will be able to be together again before too long.

As ever, we are happy to answer any queries or discuss any concerns via phone or email.

With very best wishes,

Mrs Battersby
Headteacher

Dorothy Milner
Chair of Governors