**Dear CD children, mums, dads and carers                                                8 Jan 2021**

WOW; what a long, challenging, hectic, at times fraught but ultimately brilliant week!

The reason the week has been brilliant is because you, our Charles Darwin children, have been brilliant! Your positivity, resilience and sheer happiness is infectious and seeing you get on with everything so well has given our whole school community a boost.  Children in school have been great; you have worked hard and been positive about everything whilst those of you at home have been superb too!

Almost all of you have been having a really good go at your Home Learning and being really successful with it. Even the few who have had some technological issues have been positive and ultimately succeeded – very well done to you all!

The morning and afternoon zooms have been ace; I know you are all loving them and teachers and teaching assistants tell me they love seeing you and hearing about both your learning and the other things that you are doing. Remember you must leave the camera on at all times, try to keep the adults you live with out of the way and do not put anything silly into the chat!

After talking to teachers we are going to cut back on the telephone calls. Although it is nice to chat to you we are doing that twice a day on zoom and some of our younger children can find talking on the phone a struggle. If you or the people you live with have any technological or curricular home learning concerns please use the year group emails to let us know about these and your teachers will get back to you; we think this is more efficient than phone calls.

If any parents or carers have any queries or concerns of a different nature you are welcome to get in touch with me and I will see if I can help. If appropriate I will ask Kate Marland our Pastoral Care Lead to contact you too.

Ideally we would love to have our school open and for all of our wonderful children to attend as normal. Sadly this is not possible; we must all do what we can to lessen the spread of the virus which means staying at home unless absolutely necessary. Thank you for your support regarding “key worker” school places. We must keep the numbers of children and adults in school to an absolute minimum, so these places are only for those who not only meet the requirements but have also tried every other means of safely looking after their child.

Mums, dads and carers thank you so much for your support, you have been fantastic and school staff really value your messages of appreciation. I would like to add my thanks to all school staff once again for all you have done during  this incredibly challenging week; our entire school community is grateful to you!

This will all end and we will be back together sooner than you know it!

Have a brilliant weekend, take care

Adam Croft