27th January 2021

Dear Children, Mums, Dads and Carers,

Hi, I hope you are all well and trying your best to be as happy, positive and resilient as you possibly can.

Once again well done and thank you to all children and adults for your efforts with home schooling. We are all really impressed with everything you are doing and I will say it once again to children but mainly to adults, do not worry or get yourself or your child stressed. Do as much as you can but build in plenty of rest and fun times. Lots of the learning, particularly in the infants with things like phonics and reading are PowerPoints and videos. Really easy to do yet absolutely appropriate. If you and your child can do more great but if it’s not a good day then stick to the basics. Most of all do not be hard on yourselves, you are all, even those who tell us they are struggling, doing a brilliant job.

Keeping your child safe and happy and your relationships good is THE most important thing you can be doing right now, anything else is a bonus. Give yourself a break and a pat on the back!

**Children**

I am really looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible on a whole school zoom assembly tomorrow afternoon, you will get the link today. Obviously I will not be able to chat to you all but I am excited to see you and to do Star of the Week. I’ll have Dexter with me too so if you want to bring a pet (safely) then that’d be great, if you haven’t got a pet but want to bring a cuddly toy that’d be great too! I would also like to see as many bird feeders as possible so if you’ve done one bring it with you!

**Looking forward**

The Prime Minister has stated today that it is hoped schools could begin to return from 8 March; as soon as I know more you will! Believe me all school staff are desperate for our children to back with us!

The DfE also released the following to schools yesterday which states that schools are to be closed to ALL pupils during the half term break; this is different to the first lockdown when we remained open to some children.  I am also sharing the information schools have been given regarding free school meal provision.

**“Schools will close as usual over February half-term and are not expected to remain open to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers during that week.**

**Schools do not need to provide lunch parcels or vouchers during the February half-term. There is wider government support in place to support families and children outside of term-time through the [Covid Winter Grant Scheme](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance-for-schools%22%20%5Cl%20%22support-for-families). The £170 million scheme is being run by local authorities in England, with at least 80% of the funding earmarked to support with food and essential utility costs and will cover the period to the end of March 2021. It will allow local authorities to directly help the hardest-hit families and individuals over the winter period. Local authorities have local ties and knowledge, making them best placed to identify and help those children and families most in need.”**

Once again, thank you and well done for all that you, children and big people, are doing. I am proud of you all!

Best wishes

Adam Croft