



## Update - 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thanks so much for all you are doing to help teach your children, protect the community and try to reduce the spread of this dreadful virus.

I know that so many of you will be feeling extremely fatigued, stressed and worn down by the length of time this has been dragging on. We are now half way through the half term and you have done an incredible job so far. Even if you have not done all the remote learning set, even if the children have been in their PJs a bit longer (or indeed, all day from time to time), even if you may have shouted sometimes, not tidied up as much as normal or compromised in whatever ways you have needed to. I know you are doing your level best and your children are safe and cared for and loved and that is, ultimately the most important thing.

As I have told you many times before, just try to do the basics every day, anything more is a bonus. Don't let the schoolwork create massive stress or friction and please ask us for help if you need it. You are not causing inconvenience, we are here to help and are happy to. We are really proud of you all and you should feel proud of yourselves too. What is being expected of parents and families on every level at the moment is unprecedented and extraordinary. It was a novelty and a challenge way back in March last year. Now, it is a slog and we feel it too. We know how hard this is and we are here to help. Please call school or e-mail if you need any support or advice from teachers or if you are struggling financially, with access to devices for learning or with food. We can and will help you.

There is some light at the end of the tunnel and I wanted to share what I know as soon as I know it as we have tried to do throughout the pandemic. In this way you will have the most time to make plans and prepare.

The first bit of news is that the government have announced that schools will fully close over the February half-term holiday. There is not currently any plan for a holiday club during this time.

The second piece of news is that the Prime Minister announced in Parliament today that if the vaccine programme continues to roll out as planned and if the lockdown measures currently in place bring down the R rate significantly then he aims to direct schools to re-open on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. I must stress this is only an estimated date, this is two weeks after the February half term holiday. There are no details yet as to whether there will be a full opening to all children on this date or whether there will be a staggered return as we saw in June. I am sure that we will hear more about the government intentions in the coming days but at least we now have a date to aim for and potentially the beginning of the end of this awful period for our community, our country and the world.

I will update you with more information as soon as I have it or if the situation changes.

Stay safe, stay well, stay home!

Thanks for everything, you are all brilliant,

Mr. Brown and all at school.