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NEWSLETTER 12 - 29.01.2021

Dear Parents/Carers

CHILDREN LEARNING AT HOME

This week I have had the pleasure of delivering Magic Breakfast Bags to all our families who are at home. This provided an excellent opportunity to say hello and well done to all our children who are learning at home. I was able to give out fiction books to all the children to say "well done and keep working" - you are all doing a great job. It really was lovely to see their faces and have a chat - although some do look a little shocked when Mrs Cook knocks on the door!

As a Mum of three I know how hard it would have been when mine were younger (different with three teenagers!) to manage that home learning and be "teacher" to my own children. I wanted to say a massive thank you to those of you who have stepped up and are supporting your children to do their learning at home - you are amazing and as such deserved the Kitkat which I gave you as a thank you.

As you know, the minimum we expect is that your child completes the work books each day but I am very pleased to see that the majority of families are also managing to complete the English, Maths, Phonics, Topic and online reading tasks set by teachers each day. If you need any support with log ins etc please contact your child's class teacher.

I hope that your child has enjoying logging into story/chat time with their class teachers this week. They seemed pleased to see their teachers so we will continue with this from now onwards and appreciate your support with making the technology involved work.

CRITICAL WORKER/VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN SCHOOL

These children continue to adapt to the differences in school and are all working hard to complete the same work as we are offering to the children at home. It will help staff in school if these families can make sure that they complete book bug reading at least 3 times a week - as per our usual expectation. The online log in is on your child's reading record book. The impact of this new opportunity has been really positive for some children so if you have not logged on yet please give it a try.

NURSERY CHILDREN

Following government guidance all the children in nursery are able to attend school, however, some families are choosing to participate in home learning instead. Mrs Babenko and Miss Carr have loved seeing the photographs you have emailed in of them completing the daily activities which mirror what the children in school are doing. Its' been lovely to hear how much the stories recorded by Mrs Babenko and Miss Carr are used and also how much the children at home are enjoying the live story/song sessions with Mrs Babenko.

TIMESCALE

I know that when Boris announced that we had to keep going until at least 8th March my heart sank and I am sure that many of yours did too. I am trying to think of it in two halves - two weeks until half term and then (hopefully) only two more weeks after half term. It helps me!!

We are going to plan some activities and treats for half term which will give everyone something a little bit different to do!

SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE - PLEASE ASK

I would never want to cause offence by offering support where it isn't wanted but the community and our school staff are keen to support everyone at this difficult time, so please be aware that the following support is available and please don't be afraid to ask, just ring school.

- **Books, paper, pencils, crayons etc for children to use for home learning**
- We have access to family food bags - please contact us if you need one
- We have Vodafone SIM cards with free data - please ask if you would like one
- We have access to family support for behaviour management etc - please ask
- We have access to adult mental health services - please ask

If you need different support to the above please contact myself, you are not on your own.

If you have any concerns about your child's health/development/eyesight/behaviour etc during these times as well as contacting school you can also get support from staff in the Children's Centre by calling 01159 773754 or by contacting the Healthy Family Team - health visitors, school nurses etc by calling 0300 1233387 (OPTION 4). Specsavers etc are still open so please keep up to date with eye tests etc.

DIARY DATES

Friday 12 th February	Break-up for half term
Monday 22 nd February	First day back at school
Thursday 1 st April	Break-up for Easter Holidays
Monday 19 th April	First day back at school after holidays

Please do get in touch if there is anything at all we can do to help you, these are tough times for everyone, but we are here for you and your family. Take care and let's hope the weather is kind to us over the weekend!

Kind regards

Jo Cook

Jo Cook
Head Teacher