



Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this newsletter finds you and you family well. I would firstly like to thank everyone who responded to our survey, we had 87 replies which were all extremely helpful. The survey results showed that most families are able to use Teams or Tapestry well at home and the learning during this lockdown is rated as better than our first lockdown in March 2020. I think this is largely to do with the use of the online platform, and the fantastic live lessons carried out by the teachers. The face to face engagement seems to be a key element in supporting the children. We do see however, that pupil engagement, whilst good, could be better. As a school, we need to reflect on this and see how we can best support you and your child to do this. We know how hard everyone is working so the answer is not necessarily more input, but looking at other strategies to help. We also listened to your concerns around too much screen-time, and will be introducing Screen-Free Fridays . Each class will send home work for pupils that encourages and develops their sense of physical and mental well-being, with no requirement to upload work or report in to the teacher. Of course, children are more than welcome to upload photos to show their teachers what they have done if they wish. Pupils who have additional sessions on Fridays, whether that be individual, small group or class catch-up, will be contacted by their class teacher and informed of ongoing arrangements. We are also very grateful for all the ideas you shared and feedback to teaching teams. It means such a lot when the staff know that they are making a difference and I have shared all your comments with them.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind families to get in touch if you need additional support. It may be that we can provide resources, increase online adult time, provide a device or talk you through any difficulties you are having. We really do understand how hard it is, so want to help wherever we can.

Stay safe and stay well.

Suzanne Farr

We have been notified that the **Kent Teacher of the Year Awards** are taking place this year and nominations close on 21 February - link to nomination page. I know there are many teachers who have shown exceptional dedication and expertise – so here is a chance to show them how much they are valued!

## Gingerbread man fun!

This week Class R's focus has been on the story of 'The Gingerbread Man!' The children have been doing lots of learning and exploring around the story. So far, we have seen all different sorts of baking and gingerbread man decorating, oven junk-modelling, gingerbread man assault courses, raft building and gingerbread man crafting, writing, story telling and experimenting...plus much, much more! Well done EYFS, you have been working so hard!



Class 2 are designing their own fruit salad this week and creating their own recipe book with all the different types! We're looking forward to seeing and trying their creations.