

VANE ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

FRIDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2021

Message from Mr. Pavey

We have made it to the end of a very challenging half term. I am sure that everyone will be pleased not to have any Remote Learning to do next week. I want to thank everyone for all their hard work and support with this. As parents/carers you did not expect to have to take on the responsibility of organising your homes into classrooms and as a school we did not expect to have to provide lessons for children both in school and at home. Together, we have overcome many, many challenges and ultimately this has helped our children.

On 22nd February, the Prime Minister will outline the Road Map to the reopening of the Country, including how schools will reopen. Please resist paying much attention to the media speculation and wait for the full announcements. Remember too, that I don't have any inside information and only find out when the rest of the population do. I am pleased that whatever is decided, we are told that we will be given 2 weeks to prepare, meaning that the very earliest day that school will reopen to all will be 8th March. I desperately hope that all children can return on that date which means we only have 2 more weeks of Remote Learning. Keep everything crossed!!!

Something that might put the return of children to school to risk is the continued ignoring of the Lockdown rules by a small minority of people in the community. It was very distressing to watch the local news last night about the police in Teesside having to deal with multiple Lockdown breaches, especially children and young people playing out in the snow. Please remember that, even though it is half term and there is no Remote Learning, it is crucial to continue to wash hands regularly, wear a mask and keep socially distanced at all times.

Next week, it is half term, school will be closed and there will be no remote learning. I will be checking the vaneroadparents@durhamlearning.net email address for the first three days as part of the National Test and Trace scheme. If you or a member of your household test positive for COVID19 on Saturday, Sunday or Monday (14th) you must let school know using this email address.

All Free School Vouchers have been sent out to those who are eligible. If you need any help during half term the best source of advice and support is through Newton Aycliffe one point (03000 261 118). If you have any worries about the safety of children Durham First Contact can be reached on 03000 267979, referrals can be made anonymously.

I hope you all have a happy and safe half term holiday and we will be back to Remote Learning from 22nd February.

Head Teacher Assembly

I hope the children found the information on how to verify accurate information online useful from this week's assembly. If you didn't manage to join for the live assembly, the YouTube version is available by [CLICKING HERE](#).

I want to thank you for your support and engagement with these assemblies.

The next one will be on Monday 22nd February at 9:05am and I will be looking at Chinese New Year. Please use the link below to access this assembly:

[Head Teacher's Assembly 22nd February 2021 – 9:05am](#)

A big '**Thank You**' to the Happy Valley Chinese in Newton Aycliffe for the free food which allowed our Reception Classes to have a Chinese New Year **taste session**.

****New Reading for Pleasure Site****

We would like to introduce you to EPIC reading.

This site is aimed to promote reading for pleasure. You can access thousands of books between the hours of **7am to 4pm** for free!

With titles ranging from Diary of a Wimpy Kid to Disney classics, we hope every child will discover something fun to read. There are also lots of wonderful videos to watch with great links to art and science.

Your class teacher will provide you with a class code and then you can log in and get reading!

At Vane Road, we now use a range of reading platforms such as Bug Club and myON to monitor and track your child's reading progress. EPIC books is just an additional digital library to add to our collection of reading tools with an emphasis on reading for pleasure.

Please explore the site over the half-term holiday and have fun!

<https://www.getepic.com>



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Many thanks
Mrs Johnson