



Newsletter No. 6

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are extremely sad to be sending out our first Spring term newsletter in another national lockdown; we had hoped to be all back in school soaring to success! Despite this sadness, we are clear that the data shows us that we must all do our bit to support each other, and the NHS, in this ongoing battle against the virus.

Setting up our home learning provision at such speed was an immense challenge but everyone worked together. We believe we have developed a system for all the children that gives them direct time with their teacher, as well as opportunities to verbally feedback, and for the teacher to assess and plan for the next day's learning. As with any school system we are regularly reviewing, and teachers in each year group have made appropriate adjustments to best meet the needs of their children. This will be ongoing and we will communicate with you as clearly, and with as much notice, as we can. Thank you to all of you for your words of thanks and feedback on the learning. It is a great source of support and helps us to consider our provision from all perspectives.

It is wonderful to see the children at home, and at school working so hard on their learning. Despite not being together, they are all doing their best and soaring to success. We have seen some brilliant work from both home and school and have begun to share this on twitter. Do continue to share and let us know what you are doing, it is lovely to see. This week penguins, the great fire of London, space, birdwatching and nature walks to name just a few, have made us proud!

We know (some of us from personal experience) how challenging home learning is and with that in mind you should have received a letter from your child's key stage team today sharing some tips on how to prioritise tasks and minimum expectations if your child is finding things a bit too much on some days. We are always here to help should this be the case.

A few tips which may also be of help with general good health and mental health:

- *Try to keep a routine which includes a steady bedtime and wake up time; this will help to ensure bedtime doesn't creep too late and that your child is ready to learn each morning.*
- *Make sure your child is dressed and not still in pyjamas when they start home learning and log on to the class zoom. Wearing appropriate clothes, especially school uniform, can help get your child in the right frame of mind for learning.*
- *When your child joins the zoom, please ensure they have finished their breakfast and cleaned their teeth so they are ready for the day. Eating whilst being in the class can distract children from their learning and they may miss key points.*
- *Encourage your child to take breaks. A walk, playing in the garden if you have one, or no screen time for an agreed chunk of time is a good way to help recharge and refocus.*

All of the above tips will help your child maintain a sense of routine and purpose through this challenging time. These are healthy routines for children and adults alike. Maintaining some sort of routine will also help you to manage the transition back in to school when the time comes. Your child's teacher may talk about these things to support the children in their engagement. Children's mental health week is also approaching (week beginning 1st February) and all classes will be addressing this in age appropriate ways.

Stay safe and very best wishes,
Mrs Kendall and Mrs Pentney