

28th January 2021

Dear Parents

Thank you to all of you who are sending in the specified pieces of work from your children. We are delighted that so many have remained engaged. We understand, however, that it has been something of an uphill battle for many of you especially those of you trying to balance work with home schooling.

We are hearing that the daily timetables are providing plenty of fodder and this structure has made it much more possible for you to sustain the children's learning. The zoom meetings and videos are helping to keep the children feel connected too.

The teachers are trying their very best to provide what the children need to make progress and are working long hours to do this. I am grateful to them for their dedication and delighted that, to date, everyone has been COVID-free. Without this, we simply wouldn't be able to sustain what we are doing! Thank you too to all our 'home tutors' – you have done so much to support your children!

I have received confirmation from the DfE and Local Authority that **schools will not be open** during half-term **for any child**. For us, this will enable us to re-charge our batteries; gather our thoughts; and plan before we re-start the schooling. Hopefully, childcare arrangements will have already have been in place for your child, if you are a 'critical worker', but I wanted families to know early.

During the half-term break, **I will need to know of any child who has a confirmed COVID test who had developed symptoms within 48 hours of being at school. The same applies every weekend.** The email address, on the school website, is checked daily so please use this to inform me.

The staff are now doing lateral flow tests and I will notify you, as necessary, if there are any confirmed cases. I hope and pray, however, that we all remain well.

Take care and send our love to the children.

Fiona