

Dear parents and carers,

### **Spring Term**

As we reach the end of another half term, I have been reflecting on the range of different models of 'school' we have all worked with in the last twelve months. This lockdown has been very different to the first one and has in many ways been harder to endure, partly due to the cold and miserable weather (and even the snow was a bit disappointing) and the fact it is the darkest and bleakest time of year. However, looking on the bright side, every day is a day closer to Spring and a day closer to the children coming back to school which we all very much look forward to.

### **Return to School**

Yet again, there is intense speculation about how and when this will happen. The date of 8 March is anticipated, but we don't yet know any detail. School leaders are given no advance information, so I will find out when children will return at the same time as you do. The school Leadership Team will then work on putting requirements into practice, as we have done at every stage through this journey. We have already done two versions of 'return to school', so we are confident we will manage the third well.

### **'Catch Up'**

There is also a lot of discussion (often led by commentators in newspapers whose knowledge of the education sector – and children - seems seriously lacking) about how children will 'catch up'. Some of this discussion is sensationalist in the extreme and is very unhelpful, suggesting a whole generation has been blighted by not being in school. I know it is really hard to support remote education, work and keep children entertained and happy, especially when they miss their friends. We are all going through a tough time, but I firmly believe that we will recover. It may take some children longer than others, but we will support them and work at the pace that is right for them.

Again, there is speculation about what 'catch up' will look like – longer school days, shorter holidays, Saturday morning school etc etc. I have no more idea than you do as to what will be required. What I can promise, however, is that we will always put the needs of the children first in implementing whatever we are required to do. Right now though, the 'catching up' the children really need to do is to catch up with chatting and playing with their friends in real life, and having as much fun as possible. We can't wait for them all to be in school so we can get on with this.

### **Remote Learning – Thank you**

I want to thank parents for engaging so fully with the Remote Learning via Google Classroom. We have all – staff, parents and children – been on a very steep learning curve with this technology, but we have all made it work. The children are still engaged with their learning and are seeing their teachers daily. Thankyou also for your positive comments and for the gifts of food items for the staffroom – they have been very much appreciated.

### **Grace's Fundraising**

Finally, I wanted to mention something special that Grace in Rosewood class has done. She decided to raise money for Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust by doing a sponsored silence for 6 hours last Saturday. She aimed to raise £100 but has now raised an amazing £737! I am sure that every one of our families has benefitted from the care given by Addenbrookes, and if you would like to add a donation to this excellent cause, please click the Just Giving link below. (Donating through JustGiving is simple, fast and totally secure. Once you donate, they'll send your money directly to Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust.)

[https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Rachael-Quincey?utm\\_source=Sharethis&utm\\_medium=fundraising&utm\\_content=Rachael-Quincey&utm\\_campaign=pfp-email&utm\\_term=eb38dcd382c144bcb42386696cf6c9a2](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Rachael-Quincey?utm_source=Sharethis&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=Rachael-Quincey&utm_campaign=pfp-email&utm_term=eb38dcd382c144bcb42386696cf6c9a2).

### **Fun Things**

Paint a pebble – don't forget to decorate a pebble and leave it by the school gate for others to see. Well done to Annabelle for painting our first one!

World Book Day – this is on 4 March and although we won't all be in school, we are still planning some fun activities, including 'The Masked Reader'! Look out for a letter today from Miss Ivory on how your child can take part. We look forward to seeing the videos!

Photography Competition – over half term, get out and about with your phones and cameras. Take a photo of the theme of 'Life' (basically anything goes!) and upload it to Google Classroom. Happy snapping!

### **Have a great half term break.**

I know we can't go away etc, but we can really appreciate the break from the routine of remote learning (and teaching!), getting up early and changing out of pyjamas! Next term, in assembly, I will be reading the book 'One Hundred Steps' a book about Sir Tom Moore. One of the quotes that stands out is the following, "Even when the sky seems full of dark grey clouds, the sun will shine again". It will, and I for one, will be more grateful than I have ever been when it does.

Happy half term.

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