

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to this week's newsletter. We hope you are all keeping safe and well.

I have to admit that January has been a tough month! I think that for our teachers and parents, balancing the pandemic and all that goes with it, with dark nights and early mornings, the cold and wet winter weather, juggling home learning with work commitments and the constant uncertainty that we are faced with every day has been a real challenge for everyone.

That is why I wanted to stop and take the time to say thank you. Thank you for all you are doing to support the children at home with their school work. We know this isn't easy and really appreciate how hard you are working and the constant juggling this must entail for our families.

I also wanted to say you are doing a great job! These are hugely challenging times and if your child has had lots of snacks, stayed up late, played on the Xbox for too long or not completed all of their home learning please don't worry. We know all our children are safe, they are loved and they are cared for and that is what really matters. We have loved seeing all those precious activities you have been sharing with us, whether it is building a snowman, cooking pizza, baking a cake or building Lego models. Family time is so precious and it is important that worrying over school work should not interfere with that.

So, whilst we would love to see your children accessing their learning every day and are following Government Guidance in terms of the amount of work on Google classroom, please if your child is having a day where school work just isn't working for them, or the internet is just not cooperating or you've slept in or spent the afternoon watching Frozen for the 100<sup>th</sup> time ... that's ok. Please just try to do what you can – a 30 minute reading slot every day or 20 minutes counting/timetables each day or just watching the teaching videos the teacher has put on will all make a difference. If you are able to do more, that is great too! Every one of our family's circumstances are different and we appreciate that. Please just do what you can.

Our team of staff will be arranging Google Meets for all those children at home over the next few weeks and we are planning to arrange another virtual parents evening soon so that we can catch up with you all and see how things are going. More details to follow.

Once again thank you! We are all missing our children and longing for that normality of all 200 children chattering, learning and playing in the playground together again. It will happen...by working with our families and supporting each other through, we will get through these times.

Please take care, stay safe and remember that you are doing an amazing job!

Take care,  
Carole Carter