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Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all keeping well and settling into the new routines of the current situation we find ourselves in. I would like to thank all of you, whether your child is working at home or in school, for your support as we work together through the first half term of 2021.

We are really impressed with how well children are working and their positive and enthusiastic approach. We do understand how challenging the current situation will be for many of you however, particularly those of you supporting your children with home learning. Please get in touch with us if we can support or help in any way. As mentioned already, one thing we can do is to support with the use of technology through the loan of devices such as laptops or tablets, so do get in touch if you would like to discuss this.

Please find below a number of other updates and further information:

Risk Assessments and Organisation Plans

These are all available on the school website in the 'Welcome Back' section. They will be reviewed again prior to schools re-opening to all pupils. In this section you will also find all letters to parents/carers sent out so far this half term.

Nursery Pupils

Schools are currently open to vulnerable pupils, pupils where parents are Key Workers and Nursery pupils. As you know, the government are asking all of us to stay at home wherever possible. If, however, your child usually attends our Nursery and you would like them to attend during this half term, please get in touch with us if you have not already done so.

Communication with Pupils Working at Home

Teachers are holding Zoom meetings for their classes on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. These are working well and are a valuable way of teachers keeping in touch with pupils and for pupils to see some of their classmates. Every Monday and Friday, you should receive a video Assembly from me via Class Dojo. We hope you are able to access all of these successfully. Please let us know if you are having any issues.

Class Teacher Feedback and Assessment

Teachers keep a class record sheet to show if tasks have been completed successfully by children in their class and make notes about any difficulties children may have had. These can then be addressed through



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additional tasks sent to children or in future lessons.

Where possible, we would ask that pupils (or a parent/carer for younger children) mark work where just a tick or cross is required. Answers should be provided by Class Teachers with each lesson. This work can then be uploaded as usual onto Class Dojo.

The Teacher will acknowledge receipt of work, giving additional comments as needed. They will also make notes on their class record as needed.

As I have mentioned in previous letters, please monitor your child to ensure they complete the tasks set. A great deal of work is being put into these lessons by teaching staff to ensure that they follow the structure of usual lessons and can be used flexibly by parents/carers to fit into a daily schedule that works best for you. Our children made such good progress during the Autumn Term and we want to ensure this continues during the first half term of 2021. The teachers send me their class records each week and I will be in touch with families where children do not appear to be completing tasks. We do appreciate how challenging home learning can be and will hopefully be able to support you with any issues.

Online Safety

Please see the sheet attached which gives valuable reminders and information about online safety for children during this time and will support parents/carers in discussing these aspects with children.

Winter Weather!

Hopefully, we won't get too much more of the snow and ice we had last week! If your child is in school however, please note that our procedures are as follows:

Parents/Carers will be sent a text message as early as possible, ideally by 8am to let them know that there is a possibility of closure but a final decision cannot be reached until the Headteacher can be sure of the number of staff who will be in school. Wherever possible the Headteacher will try to make this decision by 8.30/8.45am. A text message will then be sent to parents/carers and staff informing them of the decision. **It is the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure the school has been given their up to date mobile numbers.**

If it has been confirmed the school is closed, parents/carers must not attempt to bring children into school. Staff who are at school will supervise the gates and bring any children who have arrived at school unaccompanied inside and contact parents/carers to ensure they are aware that the school is closed and arrange for them to collect their child. **Older children who walk to school alone to be reminded that they MUST come into school if they arrive and school is closed to pupils, rather than go back home. School staff will then bring them inside and check someone is able to come to collect them.**

If school remains open, we will bring groups into school as follows at their usual times, ensuring that groups/bubbles can still be kept separate:

Please use the cleared/gritted pathways that have been made available.



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Nursery and Reception – usual entrances

Years 1, 2 and 3 – Staff members will stand at the KS1 yard gate to see your child safely in to school

Year 4 – Staff members will stand at the KS2 yard steps to see your child safely in to school

Years 5 and 6 – In through the usual Year 6 door.

I will send a newsletter out soon which will share some other school news and photos from both home and school. In the meantime, stay safe and please get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

Best Wishes,
Mrs Lavelle



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