



Tuesday 19th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope everyone is safe and well as you receive this newsletter? Yesterday has been talked about as Blue Monday; the most difficult day of the year even during a normal year but 2020 and 2021 can't be seen as normal years. Although there are still aspects that are concerning in a number of ways, there are more reasons to be hopeful for 2021 when compared with 2020. National infection rates are beginning to fall, local infection rates are stable and currently well below the national level and over 3 million people have received their first vaccine. In school and in our locality we must stay vigilant and continue to follow all the preventative measures there are in place but I strongly believe that we will be able to leave Blue Monday behind with growing hope.

Remote Learning

What we provide in terms of remote learning for children working with their families at home is an offer. With an expectation from the Department of Education that we offer less than three hours in FS, three hours in KS1 and four hours in KS2. This is an offer and we understand for some families this will be impossible because of commitments such as working from home and challenges such as the number of devices within the home environment. We know that all our families are doing their best for their children carrying out remote learning and how much of this offer which can be completed will depend on individual circumstances. Please don't be too hard on yourself and remember if the children are learning each day and you are doing your best which you will be doing then you can't do anymore. Staff will be more than happy to answer questions relating to how a particular piece of learning could be carried out or if your child is stuck with a piece of learning. They will do this through Class Dojo. If you have questions about our home learning offer or challenges you would like further support with, please telephone school on 01709 760471 and I will either speak to you then or telephone you back as soon as practically possible. In some instances, Mrs Sandberg may return your call if this is more appropriate. Whether you speak to myself or Mrs Sandberg, we are both happy to do all we can to support families or provide clarification.

Oxford Owl

Foundation 2, Year 1 and Year 2 as well as a few pupils in KS2 will have access to Oxford Owl during this period so that they can access reading texts at their level. For most children in KS2 their reading will come from the daily guided reading provided by class teachers. Unfortunately, over the weekend and yesterday there were some national login issues with Oxford Owl. We are working hard to resolve these and will provide further information for those classes and pupils accessing if this is required. If you are unable to access today this is due to ongoing national issues with Oxford Owl and beyond our control.

Weather forecast

With the heavy rain forecast for today and Wednesday, I hope all families manage to stay safe in this latest challenge and that your properties remain free from water. For the children in school and their families, we will be looking carefully at the weather forecasts and warning levels and will provide notices to families if these are required as we would do in other situations like snow.

Yours sincerely

Paul Beevor
Headteacher