

21st October 2020

Dear Parents,

What strange times we are living in! Who knows what is around the corner but what we do know is that things aren't going to get back to normal any time soon!

We want to take this opportunity to 'thankyou' for your encouragement over the last half term. Everyone is exhausted but we are grateful for your kind words and actions. We really do try our very best; your support makes our commitment to your children even more rewarding!

Your children are amazing! Despite working and playing in class bubbles, changes to classroom layouts and changes to school meals; the children have adapted very well and have still approached school life using our school values and with enthusiasm. The new reception classes have settled quickly and don't realise that they have started their school life in the middle of a global pandemic! What a story this generation will have to tell their own children when they grow up!

The children have enjoyed their Passport Parties and we are sure that, those who didn't go this half term, will work even harder next half term so that they go to the next party. The children really do need your support to achieve a full passport!

Health and Fitness

There has been a big improvement in the children's (and staff) fitness. We can already see the impact of the daily mile and 2 hours of PE each week! The children are fitter and healthier. Please encourage your children to exercise every day and to eat sensibly whilst they are at home during half term and during any period of isolation or lockdown.

Forest School has been a highlight of the term for those classes who have taken part. Our Forest School continues to develop on a weekly basis. This year, all children will take part in Forest School and we hope that when the government restrictions are lifted, you will be able to take part with them. It is such good fun and is proven to support children with their mental health and emotional wellbeing!

Teaching and Learning

A significant number of children have a lot of work to do in order to 'catch up' from the learning that has been lost during the national lockdown. Many children need to make accelerated progress in English and maths, specifically in reading. We have employed additional teachers to support with interventions and we will be starting our 'catchup' after school programme shortly after half term. More information will follow.

Please make sure that you encourage your children to read at every opportunity. Being physically fit and healthy; having good moral values and being able to read fluently are the things you can support with and will be crucial for your children's lifelong learning and wellbeing!

Training Day

On 2nd November 2020 the school will be closed for staff training. This will replace the training day scheduled for 19th April 2021. The training day will be used to monitor the books of every child and to plan targets and the school's catch up programme. School will reopen to children on 3rd November 2020.

As the end of term fast approaches, we would like to wish you a happy half term. Whatever you are doing ,stay safe!

Mrs Hooper and the staff team.