

Sunday 24th January

Dear Parents,

What a wonderful surprise we had to wake up to today. The sunrise was truly stunning (this was a picture taken from my bedroom window!) and for this to be followed by heavy snow was a real treat! It has certainly been a while since we have had so much snow and I hope you were able to spend a little time outside enjoying it together.



Senior leaders have been contacting parents directly this week to ensure all families have the right technology at home to support their children's learning remotely. Where this has not been the case we have been able to offer laptops or i-pads etc to help. If you have no technology at home, please contact the school and we can see what support we can offer. As we do not know how long lock-down will last for, we want to make sure that remote learning is possible for everyone.

I have attached the website address again for the local West Reading Together organisation. They are able to offer support to our community in many different ways and if they cannot support they can certainly signpost families to where they can receive it.

<https://www.westreadingtogether.org.uk/>

Finally, I have been aware that a few parents are feeling worried about their child's progress over recent days. This isn't easy to resolve right now due to the lockdown situation we find ourselves in, but a fellow leader shared this on social media and the message rang very true, and hopefully supports what I have been reinforcing to parents over the last few weeks.

I hope that there are a few things on here that will help to ease your minds...

1. We get it - it is so hard at home to keep children going, especially when they feel fed up of the situation. School leaders understand that as lockdown goes on it gets harder and harder for everyone.
2. Just do the best you can. Over time, anything you can do to help your child will help us. We are so grateful to you for sticking with it. When there are days when it's hard, it is ok (teachers have hard days too!)
3. Please try not over-worry when you hear the 'falling behind' narrative that will get louder over the next few weeks. Every pupil up and down the land is affected by this, and we will do the best we can to fix it. Like all schools will. We might not be able to do that right now, but once we all return to school, we will fix it.
4. We have 15 days until the half term break. Let's try and take it a day at a time. We will all have up days and down days. When your child has a down day please don't be afraid to let the school know - we are here to help.
5. For me it matters more that your child remains happy and feels supported. Sometimes the key to doing well in school is how happy and content a pupil is. Actually - this matters more than perhaps we realise.

6. Young people are amazing. They are resilient and can adapt. Our job is to make sure we keep them interested in learning (I actually mean keeping their spirit of curiosity alive!!). We need to make sure when our children set foot in school again they still have that spirit.
7. Most of all (and this is important) THIS WILL PASS. And when it does we will get back on with core business. But right now? We do the best we can. We are in this together - but sometimes together doesn't have to mean all being in the same place.

As always, please look after yourselves and stay safe and well

Claire