

Dear Parents,

It was lovely to welcome back the children after the half term break – despite the less than welcome downpours at drop-off and collection times! The children are rested and raring to go with their new topics.

Earlier in the week I wrote to you regarding what was then known about the implications of the national lock-down announced last weekend. Yesterday evening, following the debate in Parliament, the Department for Education published a further guidance document for schools. This makes it clear that all measures which the school already has in place must continue; after school clubs are not permitted for the next four weeks though our morning activity club can continue as normal; and children who are dropped-off or collected by a childminder can continue as normal. Although support bubbles remain under the regulations issued at the weekend, there is a new agreement that a family can form a childcare bubble with one other household as long as the children are all under thirteen years of age. The guidance is clear that each family may only form one childcare bubble with one other household – so grandparents may help with their grandchildren of one of their children only. If grandparents are helping at any time in the week, then another family are not able to offer additional days. If you are forming an informal childcare bubble with another family, please can you email the office by Friday afternoon using the header 'Informal Childcare Bubble' to notify us of your arrangement, as we are required to have that information to hand if we are contacted by track and trace. Thank you. This is the only change to the information I sent out earlier this week. The updated guidance for parents was published late this morning, and can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

This half term promises to be very different from previous years, however we continue to make every effort to continue to offer the wider learning experiences for the children where we are able to do so safely. KS1 Nativity is always a very special start to Christmas, and Year 2 will be producing a different, but equally special, performance this year. Although YR and Y1 cannot be involved, we hope that Y2 will still gain benefits from their involvement. Watch this space for more details.....

Working back from the end of term: A special DVD morning will go ahead in classrooms as a Christmas treat. Christmas Craft Day is in the diary, and I am sure the children will enjoy making something special to bring home for you. This will be exclusively within their class group this year. We are planning a special day to mark the start of Advent (and hopefully the imminent end of the lock-down). The School Council will be discussing Children in Need (13th November) – again a different simple way of supporting this year, and a message will be shared as soon as the details are agreed. Next Wednesday – Armistice Day – the children will be observing silence at 11:00am; and do look out for Y2's wreath and poem at the village memorial next week when you are out for your exercise. We are sad that we cannot ask parents and the community to join us this year, but we will remember with the children on this important occasion.

This week many of our Year 6 children have taken part in the Secondary School Selection Testing process. Their behaviour was exemplary and we are very proud of them. They were supported by the excellent behaviour of the rest of the school, who remained very quiet for Year 6. Well done everyone.

If you are enjoying fireworks as a family this evening do take care, and we look forward to hearing about it from the children.

Mrs K. Tamlyn
Head Teacher