



Hello everybody!

What a half term! It really has been a whole new learning experience for all of us and I am sure that we are all looking forward to having a break at half term.

Thank you to all of you that took the time to answer the surveys that came home. It was really useful to look at the google classroom from your perspective and we will be looking at how to improve our provision, in order to better serve our school communities in the coming weeks.

I want to thank you for all your positive comments and encouragement throughout the term so far. Staff are working incredibly hard and I am so proud of all that they have achieved. It is great that so many children are logging in to the live sessions in order to access their learning and also to maintain that social contact with their peers and teachers. I love being able to pop in to a class and say hello- whether that be in real life or on screen!



Whilst we completely understand the stresses that this pandemic has caused, I am also thankful to you as parents and carers. I'm sure that many of you never thought that you would be stepping in to the role

of teacher or teaching assistant when you signed up to be parents! We know it isn't easy for any of you working at home and supporting the children with their learning too- I hope you are managing to find some down time to look after yourselves too. THANK YOU for your hard work!



Another really big THANK YOU goes out to all those families and those in the community who have donated/ loaned ICT equipment to support our families

learning at home. We have been able to support families that need additional laptops/ tablets and dongles to boost broadband provision so THANK YOU to everybody that has made this possible.

OUR AGREED ACTIONS FROM THE SURVEY:

- Build in further social sessions so that the children can catch up with their friends and be silly together (like at playtimes)

- Teachers to arrange 1:1 chat times with pupils to discuss struggles and celebrate successes fortnightly
- Work posted for some of the afternoon sessions which involve no screen time
- Cameras need to be left on during live sessions unless otherwise arranged with the teachers.

Throughout the lockdown, where many of you are staying at home, it is more important than ever that we are looking out for each other and our mental health. I cannot stress enough, the importance to step away from the screens and get outside or just do something for yourselves. The snow has been a perfect excuse to get in the garden and play, or go for a walk through the drifts. I have loved looking through all your pictures on the google classroom- there are some very impressive igloos and sculptures!



If your child is struggling, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us at the school. If they would like time to just speak with a teacher, or other member of staff, this can be arranged as frequently as needed.



For those that like to get crafty- here are a couple of websites that you could use. Resources are simple- nothing more than junk modelling materials, pencils, paper and stuff for sticking...

<http://www.robbiddulph.com/draw-with-rob>

for drawing cartoons of all sorts of things and

<https://www.darrellwakelam.com/>

for all manner of things to make with your cardboard, milk bottles and egg carton recycling.

Enjoy! I look forward to seeing some of your creations!

Remember that if you or your children have any Covid symptoms, and then test positive throughout the half term, these will still need to be reported to the school using the mobile numbers below so that we can inform any other families that will need to isolate during this period.

Helmingham: 07593 564800

Henley: 07593 564799

Parent's Consultation Evenings: **wb 8th March**

We are planning to do the parent's evenings in the same way as the Autumn term consultations. We will inform you of the days of the week that are available for your classes and set up a virtual link for you to attend. If you would prefer a telephone appointment, please contact your child's class teacher.

Development of new outdoor quiet area at Helmingham



We are looking at developing an existing outdoor area at Helmingham to be a new quiet area/ snug for the children to use at break and lunch times. We will be painting the walls and adding suitable outdoor furniture. If anyone has any ideas, suggestions, outdoor paint, resources for this project, please contact the school.

At the earliest, we are expecting full school of children to be back on 8th March. We are expecting a government announcement on the 22nd February where we hope to hear the plans for a full re-opening. We will keep you up to date with the latest guidance as soon as we have it available.

We are doing everything we can to ensure that those children in school are kept safe. School staff have been encouraged to take regular Lateral Flow tests to check for any signs of the corona virus. Staff will continue to do this into the next half term, therefore adding another safety measure in our fight against this virus. Thank you again to those families who continue to keep their children at home. Hopefully we will be able to welcome everybody back to school in the very near future.

Until then, please stay safe, look after yourselves and each other and remember that we are all still here for you in our school communities.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Best Wishes

Stephanie Hawes

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Academy Head Teacher

