Friday 12th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Re: End of half term**

I hope that all of our families remain safe and well and that the current restrictions are not having too much of an impact on you all. We, the staff, are all really missing the children and hope that everyone is able to return to school as soon as possible. As we approach half term, I would like to reflect on the last six weeks of remote learning as well as passing on a few important messages.

Currently, schools will not open more fully until Monday 8th March at the earliest. The government has promised to give schools and parents a two week notice period, meaning that we should have more information on Monday 22nd February. This is when the Prime Minister is due to set out his ‘roadmap’ for the easing of restrictions – the reopening of schools is a national priority. I will update you all as soon as we know more.

I hope that you are beginning to see evidence of vaccinations being rolled out across the borough. The sooner we can get everyone vaccinated, the sooner we can being to return to normality. I will certainly be looking out for my own invitation to have the jab and I know that staff are keen to get their vaccinations too.

Under current UK Covid restrictions, we are not permitted to travel, including abroad, unless there is a legally permitted reason to do so. It is currently illegal to travel abroad for holidays and other leisure purposes. You can check the rules that apply to England [here](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home). **If your child is currently out of the country for any reason, please inform the school immediately, even if you left the country before the restrictions came into place – we need to know please.**

We are now six weeks in to remote learning and would like to gather parent’s thoughts on how it has been so far. Please could you spare a couple of minutes to complete our survey at [**https://forms.gle/TE8B72jcTK8rKGA67**](https://forms.gle/TE8B72jcTK8rKGA67) which will help us to improve our offer. Overall, we have been pleased with the uptake of activities, lessons, live meetings and group sessions attended by the children with approximately 85% of children across the school accessing at least some of the learning on Seesaw in the final week of this half term. Ultimately, we would love to see all of our children accessing all of the learning so please, get in touch if there is something that we can do to support your child further.

I hope that you have all had a chance to look at the new website and have managed to download the Schudio APP on your mobile phones. The APP provides a quick way to report your child as absent, allows us to send messages and alerts as well as many other useful features. We have also now added a ‘Parent Page’ to the website, which will be regularly updated with information and support for families. This page also includes a ‘help’ button. Please use this if you have any concerns at all. This could include concerns or issues with school or even issues at home where you need to reach out for support. We are here to help you in any way that we can.

It has been a very strange half term for everyone. I am so proud of the school staff, who have worked extremely hard to ensure that the children continue to learn and make progress, albeit in a very different way to normal. I hope you will join me in thanking the staff for their huge efforts, particularly whilst they are carrying out jobs that they were not originally trained for. They have shown themselves to be resilient, resourceful, rising to every challenge and to adapting quickly to meet the ever changing needs of their roles. I also want to recognise the amazing efforts of the children and their families. We know that you are dealing with huge pressures at home with school work, working from home and family commitments to name but a few. You are all absolute superheroes!

Work continues over the half term with the development of the Early Years’ outdoor area – you can see the plans [here](https://kuula.co/share/collection/7Pt2t?fs=1&vr=1&sd=1&initload=0&thumbs=1&info=0&logo=0) - some building work inside the school to create a new therapy room and a meeting room plus new flooring in Key Stage 1 classrooms.

We cannot wait to welcome the children back to school. I will keep you as up to date as I can about when that will be.

In the meantime, stay safe, have a lovely half term break, and I hope to see you all very soon.

Yours sincerely,

A close up of a sign

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Ms. Leah Wright  
Head Teacher