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Dear Parents/Carers

Congratulations on another week. I know it's fair to say that the uncertainties caused by the Government's announcements this week have brought on a lot of stress among our families. However, no matter what the outcome of the next couple of months, I can guarantee that our teachers will continue to be working extremely hard to ensure they are supporting children both in and out of school.

As noted in both the parent and pupil survey, there is a big split in our families between those who prefer whole school themed weeks and those who enjoy year group topic focussed work. As promised, we are intending for there to be the opportunity for both.

As next week signals the last week before the half term break, I am very proud to let you know that we are sending home planning, together with this letter, for our second whole school themed week, 'World Week'. I would like to thank Mrs RussellCook, Miss Turner and Miss Crawley for collaborating and using their fantastic knowledge as leaders in RE, Geography and Music/PE respectively to plan a very thorough and thoughtful week for families to be involved in. As with Science Week, this is designed for all age groups to contribute to and pupils are able to work with siblings or by themselves as you choose. Please do share all that you are doing on Seesaw as your teachers are enthusiastic to see your progress throughout the week. For those of you who fed back the need for some more 'routine' activities during the themed weeks, there are lots of suggestions at the bottom of the plans and all usual videos (PWP, Collective Worship, reading of class books) will be available as normal during this time.

I am also very pleased to announce that alongside this, the staff at Rackham, led by Mrs Hailstone, would like to promote 'Mental Health Awareness Week', which is 18th-24th May. The Mental Health Foundation want to use this week to celebrate the thousands of acts of kindness that are so important to our mental health and wellbeing. Their theme is 'BE KIND' and we at Rackham would like to adopt this too.

A message from Mrs Hailstone: On Monday a video will be available on your child's Seesaw account of me reading the book 'Have You Filled a Bucket Today?' by Carol McCloud. I have read this before in an assembly but it is a great book to revisit and can be enjoyed by children (and adults) of all ages. It has a really simple message: 'Being kind to someone else, is the same as being kind to yourself.'

We would love you to post on Seesaw the acts of kindness that happen this week in your family. Using the philosophy of the book, talk to your children about how it makes them feel when they do something kind for someone else. In my last email, I said that connection with the people we love and care about plays a huge role in our mental health and wellbeing. I hope if we all can 'fill some buckets' in our families and maybe beyond, we can strengthen our connections and improve our own mental health and wellbeing.

We hope that the activities provided will give you all a very fulfilling week. Please do ask your child's class teacher in the first instance if you have any questions.

Best wishes,



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