

NRC/JAE

12 February 2021



Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that this letter finds you all in good health and that you are all managing to stay warm. It is hard to believe that we have completed 6 weeks of remote learning since the latest lockdown began. Thank you for supporting your child/children with learning remotely. Our aim, at the moment, is to support everyone; children, parents, carers and staff, through what will, hopefully, be the final few weeks of school closures. We are aware of the extra pressure that this creates on families and home life. Attendance for online lessons has been excellent and teachers are thrilled with the degree of engagement and participation by students.

In school, we will welcome back all students as soon as we are permitted. We are hopeful that positive news from the government will soon enable this to happen. Mr Carlyle will communicate with you as soon as new information is available about the reopening of schools.

We would like to thank you for the excellent level of communication during these difficult times. Communication is vital and we will be offering all parents/carers a 15-minute video call meeting on Thursday 4 March. In most cases, this meeting will be with your child's tutor, but it could be with the Head of Year, Pastoral Assistant or SENCo if this is more appropriate.

The meeting will cover the following three fundamental areas:

- September - December (pre lockdown learning), using the data report sent home pre lockdown.
- Remote learning (lockdown).
- Preparation for a school return.

You will be able to book the 15-minute appointment through the school online booking system. Meetings will take place during the day and early evening, between 11.00 am-6.00 pm. Your appointment will be via the email address that we have on the school system and not your child's school email. Mrs Tonks will send out communication after half-term containing instructions and when the window will open for you to make the booking.

Thursday 4 March, the school will be shut to all students. There will be no live remote teaching on this day. We encourage you to make it a screen free day. Teachers will set various tasks that can be completed away from computers and designed to get students outside, if possible.

Please remember we are here to support in any way that we can so do get in contact. Many students are communicating regularly with teachers via Teams regarding a range of things. It is important that you do not feel isolated at home, ask for help if you need it. When we do reopen, we will support mental wellbeing and the transition back into school.

Last week was children, parents and carers' mental health awareness week. The Duchess of Cambridge is the patron of Places2Be, a mental health charity. The link is below. Many people, young and old have been struggling with mental health due to the pandemic and you will find helpful guidance if you explore this website.

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

On behalf of the school, I wish you all a peaceful and safe half-term.

Yours sincerely

Mr N Cousins
Deputy Headteacher

Headteacher: Mr R Carlyle BEd (Hons)

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