

Dear Families,

I hope you are **safe and well** and your children have found some way to enjoy the glorious snow of the week. **WHAT A HALF TERM!** Could I start by congratulating you, this half term (and year) has been challenging to all of us and you have survived it. I'm sure that like me, there have been times that you have really struggled. Let's be honest, home schooling whilst trying to work is really tough. For those people who have done this, congratulate yourself and recognise the things you have done well.

Thank you also for your support, kind words and helpful suggestions. I recognise the challenges families are facing juggling work, supporting their children and caring for family. Hopefully, we will reopen to all pupils in the near future. As time goes by, home learning could become more of a challenge for families, **don't forget to reach out if you want more support.**

Thank you also to those children who are in school. It is a joy to see them and they are helping to keep me sane. They remind me of more normal times. Regardless where you are and regardless of whether you send your children in or keep them at home. Well done. Recognise your achievements, try to look for the good and try to find some time over the next week to relax.

Please remember learning for your child at home is not the same as being in the classroom with their peers, they may not be as motivated at home and may struggle to complete work. If your child is unable to complete a task, just let the class teacher know. Teachers do not expect all work to come back into school correctly. If your child cannot do something independently, that tells the class teacher what to teach next, and teachers need to know this.

Each family should try and get into a routine and pattern that works for them. **Do not compare yourself to other families as we all have our own circumstances.** If you need any support or would like to log a request for a device, please reach out.

Critical Worker places

We have a high demand for places in school and we do our best to accommodate requests. We look at each request on a Thursday to action the following week. If you are able to keep your child at home and do not need places on certain days, please let the school office know in advance. **We are currently in a national lockdown and children should only be in school if necessary.** Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this.

At the moment I don't know when our schools will reopen. It is possible that they will reopen on 8th March. We have been informed that the government will announce a roadmap on 22nd February, however, as we know things can change quickly. I will continue to write out to you when I know more.

Next week is half term so we won't be setting work on Google Classroom. Work will be posted a week on Monday. We continue to evolve our offer and when we return Mrs Conway and Mr Morris, who provide our PE coaching in normal times, have created PE videos for the children to complete; Mr Richardson (our Choir lead) has created sing along videos, we will also add Music, French and Collective Worship to our remote learning offer for our at home children and school based pupils too. As well as this, we are looking at how we can have virtual

communal events. I am conscious that typically, we have our annual Fun Run in mid March. Our PE coordinators Mr Hunter and Mr Haley are looking at how we can do this. Thanks to the staff team, who are doing an amazing job.

Thank you for all of your continued support. Life can be overwhelming at times but your friendship and support is appreciated. Find some time for a rest.

Nick Conway

Let us think only spending the present day well

Then when tomorrow comes

It will be called today and we will think of it

St Francis de Sales