



Challenge, Equality & Opportunity

Monday 8th February 2021

Creative and Cross Curricular Learning on Friday 12th February

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are well and enjoying today's wintry weather, even if you are only looking at it from inside!

Everyone continues to impress us with the volume and quality of learning happening at home and coming to us on Seesaw and Tapestry. Well done for getting this far, we are now in week six of 'lockdown learning' and I sincerely hope that we are nearing the end of this period of partial school closure. I will of course keep you up to date with any news we receive regarding timescales and the full reopening of schools.

This Friday, the online learning is going to be slightly different. Instead of a morning of maths and English followed by activities from other curriculum areas, children will have a different choice of activities in the afternoon and different subjects in the morning. We hope that this will introduce some variation for the children and allow them to be creative and curious as they find out about new things and use their imaginations. It will also create an opportunity for staff to have some uninterrupted time on Friday afternoon to begin some planning in their teams for next half term. As you are aware from previous letters, all school staff are in school teaching in classrooms while providing the online learning for everyone at home. The daily workload for teachers is enormous and as a result we have not yet had the opportunity for staff to have uninterrupted planning time. For this reason, we are asking that activities are not submitted for feedback or approval after midday on Friday. Some schools have started to have a 'screen-free' or 'app-free' afternoon for staff and children every week. We don't currently think that this will be necessary as we are hopeful that school will return to being fully open early in March. If the partial closure extends further into the spring term, we will have to look at making this a regular occurrence but we will of course keep you up to date with any plans.

The activities on Friday are optional, especially on Friday afternoon, and are suggested so that children can continue learning if you and they choose to. You will receive more details about the activities and choices on Seesaw and Tapestry later in the week. If you wish to submit activities on Friday morning, teachers will 'approve' the activities but will not give written or verbal feedback and no activities should be submitted after midday. You can do as much or as little as you wish and can extend learning into other areas or choose something totally different. If you are keen to share pictures with us, then you could use Twitter at any time. Seesaw and Tapestry will restart on Monday 22nd February. Children who are in school will complete some of the suggested activities under the supervision of TAs on Friday afternoon.

Thank you for your support and your ongoing efforts. Please get in touch if you have any questions.

Best wishes

Helen McKenna

Headteacher