

Friday 12th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well and looking forward to half term. It's not the usual cause for celebration amongst staff and children I'm sure, but it at least signifies a change of routine next week and everyone will be free of the obligation to 'home school' for a few days.

I wrote to you all on Tuesday to thank you for the amazingly generous donation you have made to all of the staff at school to recognise all their hard work during the pandemic. It has given everyone a massive lift this week and staff have felt very happy and supported which I am sure was the intention behind such a lovely, thoughtful act. We are all going home later feeling a few pounds heavier after all the cake and snacks you provided but, more importantly, feeling like we are all working well together with our families to make the most of the situation we are in. Again, my very sincere thanks to all of you on behalf of everyone at school!

In other news this week, we discovered that Toby Watts in 1V has just been appointed by IKEA as its first ever Chief Play Officer. He wrote a lovely poem and was selected to be their first CPO from over 500 other applications which is a phenomenal achievement. His job is to 'test and try all new toy launches in 2021'; how cool is that?!? I for one, am very envious and I am sure there are lots of children (and their parents) who would love a similar role. We are all delighted for Toby and look forward to hearing a little bit more about it in due course. Well done Toby!

We haven't had any positive cases this half term and all our staff have continued to do lateral flow tests twice a week which have all been negative. The number of positive cases has fallen nationally, and locally in Warwick, the number of positive cases per 100,000 is currently 136, which indicates an improving situation. We have been told by PHE this week, that this is down to how well people have followed the rules and supported each other to reduce the risk of transmission. They are keen to stress we all need to remain vigilant, especially over half term, and we need to ensure that no one returns to school on 22nd February if they are feeling unwell. We have done really well so far, so let's hope we can get through the next few weeks in the best of health.

We are sending a separate letter today to remind you about the requirement to test and trace over half term which will essentially be the same as it was at the end of the autumn term. If anyone who has been attending school becomes symptomatic in the next 48 hours i.e until midnight on Sunday 14th February then please let us know as we will need to inform any close contacts to self-isolate. Anyone developing symptoms after that will not need to contact the school. This is a very short summary, and we think it is unlikely under the circumstances, but please look out for the more detailed instructions which will also be sent today.

Hopefully, you will have some plans for next week to make the most of your time together but if you are looking for some suggestions then please visit our parent page in the virtual classroom where you will find links to resources and other agencies you might find useful. This can be accessed on the following link:

https://www.woodloes.com/web/parents_page/476831



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Finally, after a fairly inauspicious start, there has been a lot to be positive about this term so far, and I am very proud of the way our school community has pulled together to develop new ways of working and to show support for each other. I hope the break next week gives us all the chance to reflect and recharge our batteries so we can return to whatever challenges lie ahead with renewed energy and enthusiasm.

Many thanks for your amazing support, take care and stay well.

Yours sincerely,

Andy Mitchell (Head Teacher)

