

# HUNTINGTON PRIMARY ACADEMY

E: [adminhuntingtonprimary@york.gov.uk](mailto:adminhuntingtonprimary@york.gov.uk)

W: [huntingtonprimaryacademy.co.uk](http://huntingtonprimaryacademy.co.uk)

T: 01904 947180

Follow us on Twitter  @HuntingtonPrim2



1<sup>st</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

With the end of January brings slightly brighter mornings and a little more evening light and we hope you are all continuing to manage the pressures of this particularly challenging lockdown.

Thank you, as ever, for the support you are showing both the school and your children with their learning, we understand how hard it is to be that educator and we think you are all doing a great job!

## **Screen free well-being days:**

This week is National Well-Being week and we are using it to launch our well-being / 'screen-free' days. Each week, class teachers will be allocating a day in the week and providing a bank of suggested activities that can be completed by your child away from a device. These will be communicated to your children, in the same way, via Tapestry. We will aim to provide you with these options the day before so you, as parents/carers, have time to be able to gather together any resources that may be helpful to support your child. We hope this will provide a sense of balance and opportunity for relaxation and calm for families and a much needed break from the screens for your children. These days might also become an exciting focus for the next Google Meet session with class teachers. If you have any queries about these well-being days please contact your child's class teacher through their Gmail, or Mrs Knight and Mrs Facfadyen who lead PSHE for us at school.

## **Google Meet live contact. A plea:**

We are constantly trying to review what we provide and this week the staff group discussed ways we feel we could make the live Google Meet sessions more productive. We have two requests of families please.

- 1) We feel it would help us greatly if children attending the sessions would wear headphones/headsets? This would help cut down on distortion of sound at our end and would also make sessions more focussed and allow children to hear and therefore contribute to discussion more easily. Teachers will also aim to wear these wherever possible.
- 2) We are finding some children are becoming quite distracted when family members or pets are also on screen or in the background. It is often quite challenging for staff to carefully manage the number of children on screen, fully value their responses and focus on the session content - while we know they might make it look easy, we can assure you it isn't! We would ask therefore that once your child has joined their live session (wearing their headphones if

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possible) that they are allowed the independence to take part and to develop the new skills they are learning (how to mute/unmute/end the meeting).

We hope February brings some good news about falling cases of COVID nationally and that the weather continues to improve towards spring.

With very best wishes,

Mrs Anne Forman and Mrs Kim Bailey.