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Friday 29th January 2021

Dear Parents

I am sure the announcement on Wednesday was not totally unexpected to us all as February half-term seemed a very tight timeline to start returning children to school. I know you must be very disappointed, as are all the staff, but we must focus on ensuring we are all doing what we can to reduce the spread.

Schools are closed to reduce community transmission. I know it is tough, especially when we cannot do those things we love, but, if we don't reduce our social contacts, then the timeline may move even further-and I know none of us want that. It may feel like it is never ending but please don't forget, there are services out there that can help: talking to someone can make the difference. If you need help in finding out who you could speak to then please, let us know. We are here to support you.

For our Free School Meal families the Local Authority is funding FSM provision for the half term from the Covid Winter Grant money provided by central Government. We will be issuing the vouchers in plenty of time before the half term so that you will continue to receive the support you need.

The Covid Winter Grant is also available for those families who are facing financial hardship caused by the pandemic and are struggling to put food on the table, stay warm, and buy essentials. Cornwall Council can provide additional financial and practical help to families through the Covid Winter grant. It can be used to provide financial help to any households (most being targeted to families with children) who are facing financial hardship and who would benefit from this support.

Cornwall Council has asked for our help in identifying those families who are most in need. The conditions of the grant state that financial help can be given in the following areas:

1. Food
2. Energy and water bills for household purposes (including drinking, washing, cooking, central heating, and sanitary purposes) and sewerage.
3. Other essentials (including sanitary products, warm clothing, soap, blankets, boiler service/repair, purchase of equipment including fridges, freezers, ovens, etc.)

We have been asked to share the following information:

To apply for the Covid Winter Grant, please use the contact information below.



- For items relating to home heating such as fuel bills or breakdown in heating equipment such as oil tanks or boiler repair please contact Community Energy Plus by emailing advice@cep.org.uk or phoning [0800 954 1956](tel:08009541956).
- For help with food and other essential household items visit our website here: <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/advice-and-benefits/benefits/crisis-and-care-awards/>

I would like to say thank you to you all for your kind messages of support and the help you are giving to your children in continuing learning at home. The weekly Google Meets are proving very popular. It is a positive thing for our children to stay connected and I know the staff really look forward to them each week.

I know this has been an extraordinary time for us all but what we are taking from it are the positives which will be good as we move forward together, when the children return. Sharing learning opportunities with parents and supporting you as much as we can is a great way of sharing how we do things. Things may look a little different from when you went to school but how fantastic is it that you have a chance to find out how things are done now. I know the RWI Phonic video clips are going down a storm and suddenly 'Fred Talk' is making sense.

Just one last thing...please don't forget that the school is closed on Monday 22nd February and Tuesday 23rd February for staff training. We are still working hard on putting into place our yearly plans for improvement and these are staff training days as planned. School will resume on Wednesday 24th February.

Take care, keep safe and ...keep smiling.

Yours sincerely
N. Finn

Nicola Finn
Headteacher

