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## Mr Blackmore's Weekly Briefing

Dear Parents/ Carers,

As we approach the final few days of the half term, I write this week's briefing already excited about the second half of the Spring Term and beyond! The mornings are getting lighter and I'm not walking to and from school in the dark - spring is just around the corner! It won't be long until we're finalising plans to welcome all children back to school – we just have to keep our fingers crossed that infection rates continue to fall and it is deemed safe to return to schools.

### Remote Learning

Thank you to those who have completed our remote learning survey. We have had a good number of responses and will look to act upon some of the feedback. Once the deadline has been met, we will also communicate the results to you.

In last week's briefing, I outlined an external piece of monitoring that was taking place. I'm pleased to be able to communicate that this was a successful (virtual) visit, with leaders able to celebrate with the reviewer the successes of our remote learning offer as well as our wider development work. We were also very willing to be challenged on what could be done better, which promoted a set of very fruitful and rigorous conversations over the course of the two days. I have only just received the report back but am happy to pick out the main themes for both recognition and next steps, specifically in regards to remote learning:

### What Went Well

- Leaders were proactive in setting up a learning platform in good time as well as a system for teachers to effectively plan for those in and out of school;
- Ongoing staff training has ensured that all staff are able to teach confidently online;
- Remote Learning Leads ensure that there is a culture of reflective practice in trying to improve the remote learning offer for children;
- Reference made to the successful recovery curriculum work undertaken in the Autumn Term as a result of the first school closure period;
- Pupils are enjoying their learning both in school and at home. The school has received positive feedback from parents;
- Staff are passionate about creating exciting opportunities for children in order to keep the connection between home and school;
- Leaders have ensured staff wellbeing has remained a focus during this period;
- The school and wider community have made efforts to ensure families are supported with technology.

### Even Better If...

- Leaders adapted their monitoring and evaluation procedures to the current remote situation.
- Alongside the taught curriculum, leaders supported teachers to promote cultural opportunities for pupils who are working from home.



- Leaders reminded pupils of the channels of communication for any concerns, even when they are working from home.
- Leaders ensured that governors had a clearer understanding of the remote learning offer and its impact.

As always, we are keen to improve, as a school, as much as possible so appreciated the critical feedback. I hope this is also useful information for you at home. This feedback, as well as the results of the parental survey, will support our ongoing developments.

### **February Half Term**

Whilst the second half of the Spring Term will see some resemblance of normality, there will still be challenges to face. I have urged the staff to ensure they have a good rest and come back ready for another half term – I urge you all to do the same. We all should feel proud of our response to this half term. We are all in this together and we will come out the other side, ready to continue our learning journey together as a community.

Have a restful half term break...

Best wishes

James Blackmore  
Headteacher

