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Mr Blackmore's Weekly Briefing

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I hope you are well. With the Prime Minister extending the lockdown but with pitching a possible return for schools from March 8, there seems to be some light at the end of the tunnel. However, this doesn't make life any easier in the short term. With another COVID case in school and with the complexities of combining remote learning and in-school provision, it feels very challenging in school for the staff and, I'm sure, for you at home. Rest assured we're feeling upbeat in school and continue to be impressed and proud with all the efforts from home.

COVID Cases

We welcomed the return of Year One Critical Worker and Vulnerable children, this week, after their self-isolation ended. We are pleased to be able to also welcome back the member of staff who tested positive. They had remained in good health, which has been good news.

You will know we had to close our Year Four bubble at the end of last week. The timing of the positive case meant that the children had to be collected from school soon after initial morning drop-off. We understand this was unfortunate for all concerned but hope that all are OK in self-isolation. This was a positive pupil case; thankfully I have received reports that the child concerned is doing well.

As always, let me remind you that any critical worker spaces should only be utilised if absolutely necessary. During school closure, we are keen to reduce numbers in school as much as possible.

Remote Learning

We continue to innovate and improve our remote learning offer. I think the main point for this week is that we're aware that we won't always get it right. We are still learning too. What I do know is that we would all rather be in school together but whilst we are in this situation, we are keen to take on board feedback and give all the children, whether in school or learning remotely, the best offer possible.

In this light, we have a visitor, this week, who is supporting myself and Mr. Robinson, remotely, to look at our remote learning offer. Whilst they will help us to celebrate the successes, they will also provide prompts for 'Even Better Ifs...' We pride ourselves on being reflective in striving for excellence and are looking forward to challenging our thinking. I'm keen to reflect on the findings of this, in next week's briefing.

As a Trust, we are aiming to send out a remote learning survey for you to complete, this week. This will give us a chance to evaluate your voice, as parents, and act on the feedback given. Please do look out for this, in the next few days.



And Finally...

As always, if you have any learning from home that the children would like me to see, please do email the office. I'd be only too pleased to be able to print it off and stick it to my wall... We've had some fantastic responses to the Collective Worship, which has been lovely to see.

Have a good week!

Best wishes

James Blackmore
Headteacher

