

DENVER V.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Discover • Value • Celebrate • Praise

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Dear Parents/Carers

As we come to the end of another week, and indeed the end of the month, I wanted to reiterate how pleased we are with how the children are coping with their remote learning. I know from the many phone calls I have made across the week to our families that home schooling can be quite a roller coaster, with some days much better than others. Please believe that you are all, children and parents, doing a great job and feel proud of what you have achieved over the last month.

I am sure that you will be aware that schools will not re-open until at least 8th March. Whilst this news is very disappointing to us all (as we want nothing more than to have all of our children back in school once again) we do understand the reasons why. The government has said that they will give schools two weeks' notice to plan for re-opening and we will keep you fully informed as soon as we know more about when this might be.

To further improve our remote learning offer, from next week each class will be offering an online live lesson. The teachers will communicate with you when these will take place and we hope that the children will engage in and benefit from these. We will aim to record the lessons for those children who are unable to attend live.

Next week is Children's Mental Health week and we felt that, now more than ever, this was something we needed to focus on. To kick start the week, Oak National Academy have organised a live mental health assembly at 9am on Monday morning. The teachers will be sending you links via Teams and we would encourage the children to all join in with this.

As part of our focus on mental health next week, we have decided to have a screen-free day next Friday. We are conscious that we are currently asking our children to spend a large part of each day online, so to give them all a break from staring at screens, all remote learning work and activities set by the teachers next Friday will be practical, screen-free and hopefully fun for the children to engage in. We are planning on sending out a variety of suggested activities that will range from requiring parental help to those that you can set up and leave the children to work on independently. We do still plan to have our celebration assembly at 2.45pm (even though this requires a screen!) as this is always a positive way to end the week.

You will soon receive some information from Mrs Henden about the Joy of Moving Winter Games, a national initiative being promoted by Norwich City Community Sports Foundation in partnership with the EFL Trust. The Joy of Moving Winter Games, which starts on 8th February, is of a pack of fun activities designed to suit the current lockdown restrictions. The games and activities are designed to inspire active lifestyles in children, aiming to teach them how to enjoy moving through play and to help them develop positive habits for adulthood. All games and

activities are appropriate for children in Key Stage 1 and 2. We hope that the children will enjoy engaging with these activities.

If you are struggling to print any worksheets or remote learning tasks from home, Morris Armitage are very kindly offering a free printing service for local pupils. If you wish to take advantage of this offer, then all you need to do is email what is required to be printed to downham@morrisarmitage.co.uk listing what you need and when for. More information can be found on our school website.

This week, we have added three new COVID-19 related documents to our website: a supplementary COVID-19 risk assessment, an addendum to our safeguarding policy and information about our remote learning provision. These documents can all be found within the COVID-19 section under About Us.

All staff in school now have access to lateral flow devices to test themselves twice weekly to identify any asymptomatic cases. Staff members take the tests, which started on Monday of this week, at home and report results to NHS Track and Trace. We feel that the testing of staff is a positive step forward in helping to keep the school community safe.

The government has announced this week that schools across the country will close as usual over February half term and are not expected to remain open to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers during that week. We hope that our critical worker parents are able to find childcare over half term, although please do contact me if you are struggling so I can signpost you to providers who may be able to help.

Once again, thank you for your continued support of the staff and school in these challenging times. I hope you all have a lovely weekend – let us hope we might even have a flurry of snow to bring a smile to the children's faces.

With my very best wishes,

Louise Jones

Louise Jones
Headteacher

