

23rd October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I just wanted to write and thank-you for understanding and support over what has been a very unusual half term. It has been lovely to receive so many positive messages from parents who appreciate the hard-work the staff here are doing to ensure the children are as safe and happy as they can be in school during the pandemic. (I am told the chocolate biscuits sent in from one family, were also very appreciated!)

We count ourselves very fortunate that we haven't had one positive case amongst the children or staff community yet, to interrupt the children's learning. I am sure that all the hand-washing, disposable packed lunch containers, social distancing and staggered start and end times have contributed to this. I appreciate some of our strategies have been more stringent than those used in other schools which has led to some parents feeling frustrated. Thank-you so much for bearing with us and adhering to new rules and strange ways of doing things, which might be inconvenient to you but have a good reason for us as a school to keep your children safe.

One of the ways the staff have been working extremely hard, is to learn how best to facilitate home-learning, should we have to close a bubble or if individual children need to self-isolate. We have stationery packs ready to go and letters printed for those families who may be eligible to loan a laptop or device for the duration of a bubble-closure. If a whole class closes we will be able to offer a daily mix of face-to-face Zoom lessons as well as the work set on Class Dojo or Seesaw to ensure learning is maintained.

The Mayor of Doncaster Council and the Chief Executive have decided to provide vouchers for Free School Meals over the holiday for families in receipt of Free School Meals. Thanks to Mrs Orridge, arrangements have been put in place to email these out. However the vouchers still have not arrived so may be sent out next week.

The half term holiday may not be as we expected as we are in Tier 3 but we all hope you are able to spend some quality family-time with your children during the week off.

Kind regards,

Helen Acton