**Principal’s Newsletter – 25.01.21**

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Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that I find you all well at the start of another week. There continues to be positive feedback about our online live lessons. People seem to be really enjoying the addition of Nearpod over the last week. Not only does this hep to make lessons more interactive but it also provides teachers and support staff with important live assessment information to inform their planning. We are striving hard to ensure that we are providing a full curriculum offer across school. This is crucial so that we can try to avoid any slippage for our children.

It is really important that **every child in school** accesses the online learning. I know that in some instances children are accessing videos later in the day. This is fine so long as assignments are still handed in. Engagement and attendance are being tracked very carefully. This information is shared with Astrea who are keen for us to identify and follow up on any issues arising from non-engagement with our provision. You will be receiving weekly welfare calls as well to make sure we are all looking out for each other and offering support through these difficult times. Please don’t be alarmed if you receive a doorstep visit at some point as well. This will be made by either myself or Miss French along with another staff member. These may be to make a delivery of some kind or to check in and make sure everyone is okay, particularly if there has been no, or sporadic, attendance in live lessons (or no evidence of videos having been watched later instead).

These are certainly very strange times so in order to maintain some sense of normality around school please can I stress the importance of having a daily routine. The structure of the online learning should help. The routine should include ensuring everyone is up early enough to allow everyone to have washed, **got dressed** and had breakfast before the first lesson starts at 9.00-9.30. I appreciate that lunch times may be quite short in some cases but hopefully they are long enough to provide some time away from the screen, have something to eat and possibly have some time outdoors. As we are all sitting for longer periods and have easier access to snacks if we’re at home then I make no apology about reminding you again of the **daily PE** challenge and session on Class Dojo from Miss Adams. It is also really important that a usual school-day bedtime routine is maintained.

We will be receiving our supply of lateral flow tests for asymptomatic staff to begin to use within the next week. These will be completed twice each week so should hopefully prove helpful until we’re called up for vaccines.

Thank you once again for your continued support and patience in these very strange times.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Moody

Principal