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1st February 2021

Dear parent / carer,

I hope this letter finds you well. We are now 4 weeks into lockdown but I am beginning, perhaps optimistically, to feel that there is light at the end of the tunnel. As you will no doubt be aware, the government are looking at schools starting to return from 8th March and so we are planning on that basis. We are not yet sure whether this will be a full return or specific phases / year groups however I would like to think that it won't be too long before we have more children back in school. We have been informed that we will receive more information in the week immediately after half-term so I will let you know as soon as a plan is announced.

Our online learning platform, Google Classroom, continues to be the primary method of remote learning and this has allowed us to provide a consistent and varied online curriculum. Engagement is very high and so I thank you for your continued support with this. We are also introducing a feature called Google Guardian this week which will allow you to receive regular updates via email of what work has been set and your child's ongoing progress. We will keep this as simple as possible and so you will shortly be receiving an email invitation with a link to allow you to opt in. Please look out for this.

This week is also Children's Mental Health Week so we will be sharing a number of resources over the next few days. As always, if you have any concerns about how your child may be coping during this period then please do get in touch with our pastoral team who will be happy to help.

We continue to have around 15% of pupils in school which is significantly higher than the previous lockdown however they are working very well. My thanks go in particular to our fantastic team of support staff who are managing this provision on a daily basis. As you may be aware, this provision will be paused throughout half-term week (15th – 19th February) but will start again on 22nd February.

We are also now operating as a mass testing centre which has been incredibly challenging to get underway. My thanks again to the team of staff who willingly volunteered to run this; it simply wouldn't happen without them. At this point, all pupils in school have had 2 tests and the staff are now being tested weekly – this has been no mean feat!

Finally, the national GCSE consultation has now closed and we await further detail about how our Year 11 pupils will receive their GCSE grades this year. Once again, we will be in touch about this as soon as we know more. Thank you for your ongoing support; it is truly appreciated and I very much look forward to seeing your children back in school as soon as we are permitted. Take care and continue to stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

Dean Williams