



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER NO 18

DATE: 12.2.21

Love, Learn, Share, Care - We are God's children doing God's work

Our Christian Value for this half term is ENDURANCE

School closes today for critical worker children for half term at the usual staggered pick-up times and re-opens for critical worker children on Monday, 22nd February, 2021.

Dear All

We have managed to get to the end of the half term!

I am pleased to report that Mrs Cummins is still aiming to return to us after the holiday, and will begin with part days at first.

Well done to all our parents who are supporting learning at home; it has been incredibly challenging for you. Staff have worked so hard to deliver face-to-face and on-line teaching. From what we hear about the provision from other schools, it is clear that our staff have gone above and beyond in what they have managed to provide. At the beginning of the academic year, we increased the number of teaching assistants in school and therefore raised the time classes had Teaching Assistant support from 60% to a minimum 92% timetables lesson time as part of our catch-up strategy. This has enabled staff to provide on line learning, live chatting to pupils/parents during lessons, intervention break out rooms, 1:1 sessions and small group support. This in turn will have reduced the slippage in pupil progress during the lockdown period and supported pupils in catching up during the periods of full attendance. Teaching staff could not have managed this term without the support of our wonderful Teaching Assistants.

The government has promised schools over the academic year some additional funding to support their catch-up programmes. Our school was allocated £11,295, which will be added to the budget periodically throughout this year, and we are grateful to receive such financial support. The amount of money granted is useful but does not come anyway near the amount of money we needed to cover the catch-up strategy and provision that we wanted to put in place. In order to cover the cost of additional teaching assistants with qualified teacher status, governors allocated an additional £17,923 to the school's catch-up strategy and I am grateful to them for their commitment to the progress of our children. Everyone in the school community is playing their part in lessening the impact of the lockdowns, and to get our children to where they need to be emotionally and academically. We hope and pray that the situation will improve through mass vaccination and that the end of school 'closure' is in sight. We really want all children in school as soon as it is possible.

I hope that you are all able to enjoy some rest, relaxation and family time over next week.

Mrs D Metcalfe
HEADTEACHER