

WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

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**Westbury-on-Severn
CE Primary School**

Thursday 11th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you all well and healthy. However, I expect that like us, you are all exhausted and looking forward to the February break next week.

I want to once again thank you all for the way you have engaged in the remote learning we have had to provide. I know how difficult it has been for so many of you, as you have juggled your work commitments and other commitments around supporting your children at home. It has not been an easy ask, but you have done amazingly and we thank you so much here.

At the moment, we don't know what next term will bring us. There is still the expectation that we will have all the children back in school on March 8th, this is yet to be confirmed so we will just wait and see. The encouraging news of more people being vaccinated against COVID-19 enables us all to be more optimistic about the future and the hope of warmer weather as we move to the summer brings a bit more joy.

I also want to thank you for the fantastic attendance of the vast majority of children to our daily acts of collective worship. When in school, this is a lovely way to bring us all together as a Westbury family and to share time together away from the hustle and bustle of school-life and just stop and be still for a while. I know how difficult it can be to have moments of stillness and quiet in the busyness of the day, so thank you for encouraging the children to attend – really it isn't an option, but I appreciate how challenging it sometimes can be!

I have sent home earlier today information about the test and trace procedures for the break. Please do let us know if there are any confirmed cases amongst your children. This is very important as it will have an impact on the bubbles that the children are in.

As you know, we have had violin tuition in school for Class 1 and 2 now for many years and now have Heather McFarlane of Gloucestershire Music teaching violins to the children. However, due to lockdown, she has not been able to come into school. The great news is that this week we trialled our remote music lessons with her and it seems to have been a great success. We will therefore be doing this as part of our Thursday remote learning programme after the break. Class 1 children will be able to join in from school **and from home** at 10am on Thursday mornings and Class 2 children will join in at 11am. The only difference is that the platform that Gloucester Music uses is WEBEX and not zoom. I will send out a letter to parents of children in Class 1 and 2 with more information about this. You may need to download the platform on your devices at home. This shouldn't be a problem but if it is, please get in touch.

We have been alerted via our School Beat Officer from Gloucestershire constabulary about a growing number of children using the 'WhatsApp' application on mobile phones and have been asked to remind parents and carers that this should only be used by young people aged 16 years or over. It is not suitable for children under 16 years and has an age-restriction on it. I'm sure you will be aware if your child has been using this on their mobile device, but if you are not sure, then it might be worth a look.



I am very grateful to those of you who have signed and returned your user agreements for Zoom and remote learning. This is an important agreement for us to have as we continue to move forward with the use of this technology and teach the children to use it carefully and correctly. The agreements make it clear what the expectations are when using remote-learning platforms or video conferencing applications. We use Zoom in our school for any remote-learning video conferencing that we engage children with and for our acts of worship. It is important that children understand that when they are using these platforms the same expectations and behaviour is expected as if they were in the school hall for worship or in the classroom. Therefore, there should be no eating, drinking, or moving about during these times as we would not expect that in school. I know it is difficult and for some children it can seem different at home than in school, but we must have the same levels of consistency in behaviour at home as in school, as this helps with the cohesion we are striving for in all learning attitudes. As I have said before, the Government's directives over remote-learning are totally different than the previous national lockdown. Children are expected to be engaging in 3 hours of learning each day at Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and Year 2), and 4 hours of learning each day for Key stage 2 (Years 3,4,5&6). Once again, thank you so much for supporting and ensuring this is happening and remember that we are here to help if this becomes a problem. Please ensure that you have sent back your signed copies of the agreements as soon as possible if you haven't already done so.

We do have some laptop devices that we can still lend out if that is needed, so do get in touch. We will make sure that they are capable of accessing zoom calls and are internet-ready so that learning can be done on them.

Finally, I want you to know how much we miss you all and how grateful we are for the amazing emails and kind words we have received as we have battled through this together. It has been a strange and bizarre year, and we all hope that once this lockdown has ended we won't see another one. However, whilst we wait for the lifting of restrictions, please keep safe and healthy and have a wonderful half-term break.

As far as possible, we want to have a more relaxed end to term tomorrow with activities that will be creative and support mental health. Have fun!

With warmest wishes,



David Crunkhurn
Headteacher