



5th February 2021

Newsletter No. 20 2020~2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank You

We would like to express our sincerest gratitude to all those parents who contributed to a selection of Body Shop gifts for the staff. This came as a complete surprise and was most welcome indeed. Just a little bit of pampering at this time of year will be lovely and it has really given an exhausted staff a lift. Thank you so much.

Well-Being Wednesday

We will be continuing with our idea of *Well-Being Wednesday* on a weekly basis. We believe that this week has shown how many children received a lift from some of the different activities they could opt for. The idea received overwhelming support in our recent parent/carer survey and it is clear that the vast majority of families can see the benefit in trying to give children something to look forward to that will exercise different parts of their minds. January has been a tough month and we can all do with a taste of something slightly different. As stated in the survey, there will still be the morning Teams meetings and formal work set in the morning. There will be a completely different type of activity set for the afternoon, normally with a healthy degree of choice for the children. No work should be uploaded to SeeSaw or Tapestry on a Wednesday.

Well-Being

We have an understanding that this is such a challenging time for so many people. If you would like further support regarding the mental health of yourself or a friend/ relative, you may find this [link](#) useful.

Dress to Express

We have all been so impressed with how the children have worked throughout this half term, whether they have been in school accessing our critical worker provision or at home undertaking remote learning. In recognition of this, on Friday 12th February we are inviting all children, whether they are in school or at home, to 'Dress to Express!' This could be by wearing their favourite colour, wearing something to represent an activity they do, a football shirt of their favourite team or anything that expresses something about themselves. It would be great to see everyone and to take the opportunity to share their 'Dress to Express' outfits during Teams registration. Be as creative as you like, grown-ups (at home!) can join in the fun too. We also appreciate how busy some people are at the moment so this idea is completely optional.

Critical Worker Places

We are experiencing increasing pressure for Critical Worker places in school and we have had to challenge some families over whether these requests are essential. We know that this is hard and we are also aware of how difficult it is for children as they miss their friends from school. Sadly, this is not a reason in itself to request a place in school. I do need to remind you that the guidance states '*Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required, **but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.***' We are not intending to be unhelpful when we question whether places are genuinely required. Please understand that it will become harder to continue to offer our remote provision if more staff are required to teach children in school, although we will always do our best to continue with the parity of provision that we have successfully achieved this January.

Snow

You may have noticed that we are, again, forecast to have a snowfall over the weekend and during next week. As always, Mr Taylor gets a bit grumpy if he has to close the school. Nevertheless, we do have to consider the safety of parents, children and staff (as many travel from distance) and parents should be prepared with a back-up plan if we have to close. We will try to make this decision on the evening before a potential closure if possible but, obviously, we have to respond to overnight snowfall. We will always try and make a decision by 7:15 am at the latest.

Parent/Carer Survey

We would like to thank all of you who took the time to respond to our parent/carers survey this week. We had a tremendous response and your views and comments will help us to continue to improve our remote provision. By its nature, remote provision is difficult to adapt to everyone's needs and it won't surprise you to know that we can't please all of the people all of the time. Nevertheless, we are delighted that there was an average overall rating of 4.16 out of 5 for the quality of our remote learning. We are also able to identify some areas where we can adapt our provision too, hopefully, improve it for the majority of families. We will publish the full set of results on the school website.

Laptops

We have been distributing laptops (in accordance with our loan agreement) to those families who have been experiencing the biggest problems with technology. We notice from the results of the Parent/Carer survey that several of you, anonymously, have indicated that you are still having problems. Please email the school office if borrowing a laptop from school would help your child engage with remote learning. We can't promise that every request will be met (we have criteria for the distribution of hardware) but it would be good to hear from those families in need.

Assemblies

Mr Taylor is planning to operate two live assemblies for children on Monday afternoons. These will take place after school so that key worker children can access them too. They are scheduled for 3:30pm for KS1 and 4:00pm for KS2, lasting approximately 10 to 15 mins. These are optional for children but we are hoping they will help us to keep in touch with them. Normal online protocols for children will apply. Click [here](#) on Monday for the KS1 assembly and [here](#) for the KS2 assembly.

Free School Meals and Covid-19 Winter Grant

We can confirm that we will be sending out free school meal vouchers for the forthcoming half term break for those families who qualify. We would also like to draw your attention to the *Covid-19 Winter Grant*. This scheme aims to provide support to vulnerable households and families with children particularly affected by the pandemic throughout the winter period where alternative sources of assistance may be unavailable. Specifically, the grant can be used to pay for two energy bills (of £49 each) and one water bill (of £80). There would need to be proof that your financial situation has been directly affected by Covid-19. Further information can be obtained via

- Phone - 0300 688 0808
- the web online enquiry form <https://nottenergy.com/covid-19-winter-grant-scheme/>
- email - covidwintergrant@nottscc.gov.uk

Red Zone

Please can we remind families who are still coming to school that cars should not be parked in the red zone at the bottom of the school drive when children are being dropped off. This area is busy and many children and families cross the road at this point.

Parents' Evening

In a normal year, we would, by now, have a date set for parents' evening in March. We are currently planning the most effective way to run this event but obviously, it will need to be different this time. Last March, we managed to hold parents' evening just before Lockdown started and in October the children were in school. We will be in touch shortly with regards to how we plan to arrange some form of individual contact.

Yours faithfully,



Pete Taylor
Head Teacher