

29.1.21

Dear Parents and Carers,

Today, we had our first whole school assembly on TEAMS. It was great to see so many of you joining us both at school and at home. The positive messages from all the teachers were great to hear and I feel they wholeheartedly reflect what children, parents and staff have been doing over the last month. It was great to bring everyone together at the end of the week.

In the assembly, I wanted to reflect on our school Vision and Mission statements...

- Vision – *“Safe, respected and ready to step out into the world.”*
- Mission Statement – *“Setting no limits on what we can achieve with a positive attitude to life.”*

So much has happened over the last year. What we have learnt has given us the knowledge and skills to move forward together as a school community and set no limits on what we can achieve. This is certainly evident in how everyone is using technology. Families and staff are doing great work to support the children’s education at home. I feel confident that when we reopen, children will be in a stronger position than last year to step back into full time school.

Thank You

In the last month, the school has been lucky enough to receive some donations from the local community. We would like to say a big thank you to those organisations – we really appreciate your generosity and will be able to use your donations to benefit all the children both now and when we are all back in school.

- Buckfastleigh and Ashburton Rotary Club have donated £250.
- Women’s Union have donated £1000.
- Grey Matters Limited (a software company in Ashburton) have donated 5 refurbished PCs.

Remote Learning Survey

Thank you to everyone that responded to the remote learning survey. Here is some of the headline information from it:

- 98% of families thought their child received enough remote learning.
- 85% of families thought the work was pitched about right for their child.
- 87% of families thought their child’s engagement was OK or better with the remote learning.

There were many positive responses about what was working well alongside some constructive ideas. We have taken that on board and over the next few weeks, we will be:

SAFE, RESPECTED AND READY TO STEP OUT INTO THE WORLD

Belong

Creative

Sustainability

Curious

Empowered

- Improving our PE sessions. These will be on a different theme each day. There will be specific PE teaching, mindfulness/yoga, family fun activities and some competitive events. This means there should be something for all the children to enjoy.
- 'No Screen Thursdays' – Every Thursday afternoon, children at home will not be set curriculum activities and are encouraged to stay off their screens, play and get outside. Children at school will be doing fun, practical activities for the whole afternoon.
- Online Safety Lessons – over the next four weeks, each class will be doing some online safety lessons with their teacher. These will be scheduled at the start of the afternoon on one of the days in the week. We would encourage all children at home to attend the 'live' sessions.

Alongside this, Teachers are working with some individuals and groups to ensure that the learning needs of all the children in the school are met.

Water Bottles

Children must bring a water bottle to school each day. This can be used in class and at lunchtime.

Lateral Flow Tests

Staff have started using lateral flow tests to identify if they are asymptomatic. They are taking them twice a week and it will provide an extra level of reassurance that staff on site are COVID free.

This week has seen no further positive cases for staff or children. Please let us know if you have to self-isolate at home due to contact with a positive case.

Next Week, we will be having another whole school assembly on Friday afternoon at 1:15pm. I look forward to seeing many of you again at that time. It is great to see everyone together, supporting each other and celebrating our successes.

Have a great weekend and take care,

Eddie Brown

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