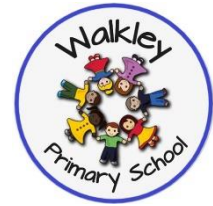


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'Enjoyment, Achievement and Learning for life...'

Headteacher: Val Sian
Deputy Headteacher: Chris Wallis
Chair of the Governing Body: Andy Wilcock

1.2.21

Dear Parents / Carers,

Remote education provision: Reassurance and information for parents

I hope that you are safe and well. We need to consider the impact of the statement made by Boris Johnson that schools would reopen on Monday 8th March at the earliest. This has tested the resolve of many of us and as this period of Lockdown extends, it feels very different than when the same announcement was made in March 2020. It is winter and as this season unfolds, the dark mornings and evenings, cold days combined with an intensity required by the remote learning agenda brings a different set of emotions to the whole experience.

We have to keep reminding ourselves that through these days of challenge we need to find time to be kind to ourselves and that we can only do the best we can do. At the moment, life is a balancing act for all of us and it is an extremely difficult balancing act, therefore, inevitably we cannot juggle everything at once.

Like everyone, there will be times when you may feel the strain in your household. There could be times when adults or children need some extra emotional support. One more website has been launched called [CAMHS Resources](#) that we highly recommend if you need it. The site was created for young people, carers and professionals to pool together lots of helpful resources from across the internet that are available to help support your mental health and well-being and is well worth a look.

You can find links to this and other websites that support wellbeing on our *Mental Health and Well-being* page of the school website, located next to the Class pages where you access your Remote Learning:

Resources and activities: Resources recommended by Walkley Primary Education
Psychologist to support families during lockdown and beyond. Plus, Feelings Work - This can be completed with parents at home any time. Useful as a starting point for talking about how children are feeling.

Helpful websites: Camhs, Young Minds, Mentalhealth.org.uk, Make It Count!

Soon it will be spring, the daffodils and snowdrops are beginning to break through, the nights are getting lighter for longer and I am sure that this will help with our optimism.

ts	Pupils
	Catch-up Learning
	Class Pages
	Mental Health and Well-being
	Virtual Library
	School Council
	Video Resource Centre

Half Term

School will be closed for everyone for the half term holiday and there will be no remote learning or home learning packs sent or posted on the Blog over the holiday. We hope this will provide some respite from the pressure of home learning. The half term week is from Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February 2021.

Work in school and at home

We have only been in school 3 weeks, and during that time we are working hard to support learning whether that be remote learning, the battle with the DFE to provide 32 iPads so that we can support more families to access remote learning or providing home learning packs to families without devices. The Pastoral Team are making 154 Safe and Well phone calls per week to families that need our support and have delivered just under 200 Free School Meals to families

whilst organising vouchers when the Government decided that they should continue. We have been supporting parents with how to use Google forms, answer quizzes, respond to emails etc. Many of my staff are parents of primary age children too and in-line with the guidance provided by scientific research, are themselves taking every effort to keep their children at home, to restrict the spread of the virus, protect the NHS and save lives, so they know the challenges of trying to work whilst supporting home learning, as well as trying to produce videos at the same time. **This past month feels like a year for all of us!**

Something to look forward to

The small percentage of key worker and vulnerable pupils in school see only their classroom and the outside of the school. Due to COVID restrictions we are unable to use the hall, dance studio, creative zone and the discovery zone which is extremely frustrating! Such restrictions however, do ensure that only when **all** pupils can return will the new school, in all it's wonder, be open for our pupils. When we receive the two - week confirmation from the Prime Minister that schools will re - open, we have planned to create a video of the entire interior and exterior of our school (postponed from the first week in January) for all pupils and families to look at. In the meanwhile, you will soon see some changes to the school website, updated with new pictures inside and outside our new building. Also, on Friday 12th February, our first newsletter of the year will include comprehensive photographs that were taken last week.

Phone-calls home

Families of pupils not attending school or receiving Safe and Well Calls will receive a phone call from a member of staff to talk to the children, just as we did last year. They are planned for the last week of this half term or the first week of next half term and will be mainly delivered by the Pastoral Team and voluntary teaching assistants, so hopefully we can catch up with each other soon.

Thank you for your many emails expressing your good wishes and endless support whilst trying to manage your own lives and families. They really are highly motivational. Keep safe and strong and we hope to reunite our Walkley family in the very near future.

Kind regards

Val Sian

Headteacher