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Friday 12th February 2021

End of Half Term Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, well done to all our children and their families for making it through to half term learning remotely. As a school we have been very impressed with the level of engagement in learning, the amount of work that is being uploaded and how motivated the children are.



Brilliant! This is a fantastic achievement, and we are so proud that you have been able to do this!

We know that for many people things have not always been easy and the fact that you have persevered and managed to do what you can, shows how resilient and determined the children and families of Bowthorpe can be. Of course, we are not out of lockdown yet and we are not really sure how much longer it will go on for. Please do not pin hopes that all children will be back in school on March 8th, or even before Easter. What we hear in the news often is not hard fact. As soon as I hear more information from the government, I will let you know what we are doing about getting more children back to school.

Let's stop talking about lost learning!

I am sure you are as frustrated as school staff are when we hear comments that children are falling behind, labelled as “the lost generation” or that their earning power in the future will be reduced. Please do not listen to the media talk! Instead, support your child by letting them know how impressed you are with, for example, their effort, their keenness, their creativity, their will to work even without a teacher in the room. Help them to see what they have achieved during lockdown, not what they might have missed out on – we can put this in place when they return to school. Let me reassure you that teachers are trained to close gaps in learning, put in place specific interventions to support children, assess what needs to be taught to which children and when. Please don't let your children worry!



Did you know...

- We have been able to loan out over 100 laptops and ipads to families in our federation.
- We have wifi devices if you don't have wifi.
- We will always provide paper packs of work if you find this easier.
- You can use the X-box or Playstation to access Class Dojo or Tapestry.
- We are providing food vouchers for children entitled to Free School Meals.
- The BBC have some great educational programmes on now. Make the most of them!
- We love to see photos of the activities you have been doing!
- You can talk to us if you're finding lockdown difficult.



We are here for the grown-ups too!

We have highly trained staff in our schools and there is always someone who can help with your concerns. At this time even the adults can struggle – but you are not alone, and help is available. Please help us to see what the need is in our community by completing our [Parent Survey](#)

click there



This link will stay open until after half term.

Staffing

Mrs Wiseman

We say a fond farewell and happy retirement to Mrs Wiseman, library and Cover Supervisor, who has been at the St Michael's Junior School for around 30 years! She has dedicated her working life to the school, is much loved and has helped to shape the school to what it now is. We thank her sincerely for all she has done for the school over many years and wish her all the best for the future.



Miss Beattie

Miss Beattie, TA at St Michael's, is leaving to enter a new career in pharmaceuticals. We thank her for her work at the school for the last 4 ½ years and wish her well.

Miss Banham

We welcome Miss Banham, teacher, to Clover Hill. Miss Banham taught at Clover Hill a few years ago and we are very pleased indeed to have her back with us again in key stage 1.

Our Clerk to the Governors



I would like to ask our Bowthorpe community to hold our highly respected Clerk to the Governors, Jennie Reynolds, in their thoughts and prayers. Jennie is critically ill with Covid and is in Intensive Care. She is a very dedicated, highly skilled member of our community and I ask you to think of her and her family at this time.

It's half term next week and there will be no lessons or remote learning. Take time to just relax and we will see you all again (remotely!) on Monday 22nd February.

Keep safe and stay at home!

Yours sincerely,

HJ McCarney

Mrs H McCarney

Headteacher

STAY HOME > PROTECT THE NHS > SAVE LIVES