



2/2/21

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the latest newsletter.

We now know that the children won't be returning to school directly after February half term.

This is disappointing news for us all- as we all want all of the children back in school as soon as possible.

However, we are working hard in school planning for when the children do return – as well as continuing to develop the remote learning- more details of both of these below.

### Remote Learning

Thank you to all of you for your continued support with your child's home learning- and for getting in touch with your thoughts.

Here is a summary of how this has evolved over the past four weeks:

Your feedback:	Our response:
It would be useful to have some clarity about what to do, when and how long to spend on each subject	Timetables are being sent home each week with resources to support each session and different work set for each day
It would be useful to have teachers actually teaching the children	Links are included in the planning to Oak Academy sessions- with real teachers teaching the short lessons.
It would be good if the packs arrived at the start of the week	Packs are now posted on a Wednesday so that they hopefully arrive by Monday- but this does always depend on the local delivery situation
It would be good if the children weren't spending all their time on laptops	Absolutely- we agree. Oak Academy sessions are only 20 minutes and the follow up activities are

	<p>usually practical or paper based. However, sessions and planning are continuing to evolve so that there are an increasingly wider range of activities and resources used.</p>
<p>My child really doesn't like the Oak Academy sessions- does he/she have to watch them?</p>	<p>Absolutely not- the sessions are there as a resource to be used if it is helpful. The various teachers in the videos use accurate mathematical language and different modelling techniques which can be useful, for example. However, the work in the packs can be completed as standalone activities .</p> <p>We will always try and offer alternatives if you get in touch- and it is fine to use other resources linked to the class themes if you find some that your child prefers.</p>
<p>I am finding it really difficult to get my child to engage with remote learning- what can I do?</p>	<p>We appreciate just how difficult this is- many of you are juggling your own jobs, remote learning and children of different ages too. Anything you can do is fantastic. Please get in touch with us and we will try and help if we can.</p>
<p>It would be good if my child could have feedback from the class teachers</p>	<p>Class Teachers are responding to everything that is posted on Class Dojo every day. One reason for setting up the virtual Celebration Assembly was also to show how much we value the hard work the children are doing at home- and to try and recreate the sense of belonging to a 'community' which is so difficult to maintain at the moment.</p>
<p>My child is really missing the interaction with a class teacher</p>	<p>Class teachers are now going to be running at least one virtual session each week. These informal sessions are so that we can hear from the children at home and they get the chance to share what they have been doing.</p>

<p>I'm worried that my child will be behind because they haven't been in school during lockdown and other children have.</p>	<p>The children in school are following the same timetable, and completing the same work, as is being set for the children at home each week. However, when the children return to school, there are inevitably going to be gaps. In order to help us support the children during the summer term, we are currently recruiting for an additional, part-time member of staff. See below for more details.</p>
<p>Other schools are doing things very differently</p>	<p>Yes they are. Every school has a different model of remote learning. At Greenhaugh, there is a very small number of staff. Both class teachers are working with children in school as well as setting up the remote learning resources AND preparing packs themselves to go home each week. In bigger schools, teachers are in school on a rota so that they have time at home to prepare and deliver remote learning sessions.</p>

I hope you agree that the remote learning offer has developed considerably over the past four weeks. However, we now know that this lockdown is going to be continuing for longer than we had originally thought. Class teachers continue to value your feedback and we are keen to continue to develop what we can offer. So, there will be a remote learning survey coming out later this week in order to capture feedback from as many of you as possible. Please let us know your thoughts and we will then try to reflect this in our planning for the next few weeks.

### **Staffing Update**

I am really sad to let you know that our school catering manager, Julie Beattie, has resigned for family reasons with effect from February half term. Julie has been an amazing addition to the school team and her lunches are fantastic. We are all deeply saddened by her decision- but wish her all the very best.

It may be that we will need to ask the children to bring in packed lunches during the second part of the spring term while we have no-one on site. I'll let you know as soon as possible.

As mentioned above, we are currently recruiting for a part-time teacher for the summer term to support across the school using our Covid catch –up funding. There has been a pleasing amount of interest so far.

Again, I will let you know the outcome of the recruitment process in due course.

### **Adopt a snow leopard**

The children decided towards the end of last term that they would like the school to adopt a snow leopard. I'm delighted to let you know that this is going ahead- supported by the F.O.G.S.. We'll send out some pictures as soon as we receive them.

And talking of snow creatures- here are some lovely photos of a snow cat and a snow dog that the children in school have been making....



### **Themes for next term:**

Both class teachers are planning some exciting learning for next term.

Class 1 are going to be looking at 'Flight ' including finding out all about migration.

Class 2 are going to be learning about "Endangered Animals' and trying to answer the question 'how and why do animals become endangered'? They will be thinking about red squirrels and hedgehogs in this country and then comparing and contrasting this with the plight of some more exotic species abroad.

### **And finally:**

It has been good to hear from some of you over the past four weeks. If you have any question or concerns, please do continue to get in touch.

I will usually be at Greenhaugh on a Monday and Tuesday but will check my emails regularly through the week.

If I don't know there is a problem, I can't sort it out!

Jo Trotter (Interim Headteacher)