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Headteacher: Mrs A Waplington

20th January 2021.

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I hope that you and your families are keeping safe and well. Did you manage to get out and enjoy the snow at all last week? The highlight of my week was seeing the children out on the playground – their excitement and then their joyous laughter when they managed to hit one of the staff members with their snowballs was priceless! It also reminded me how important it is that we continue to follow the rules so that next winter it will be **all** of the children enjoying the snow on the playground **together**.

As I wrote last week, there is an expectation, that **all** children engage with the work set. Class teachers will monitor the engagement of your child in their learning and we will work with you and your child to overcome any barriers that may prevent them engaging in their learning. We recognise children are all different and may need slightly adapted approaches. It is a learning process for us too!

However, we also want you to enjoy being with your children and have fun! Children learn so much by experiencing, doing and talking. Children learn better if they exercise and do active minutes regularly. These are just as important as any work set. Why don't you get out for a brisk walk and if it snows again, build a snowman?

Communication with Home

Teachers will be contacting pupils between 9am and 3pm. Please respond to any emails for requests to meet via Teams and to any phone calls made. This is an important part of our 'keeping in touch' policy to ensure that all pupils are safe and well.

Reading

It is important that children continue to read regularly – ideally every day. Don't forget to log on to Oxford Owl home books – they have a large selection of free e-books for children of all ages and abilities. If you are struggling to access this site please contact your child's class teacher who will be pleased to help you. The Oak National Academy, in partnership with the National Literacy Trust, has created an online library which will provide a book a week from its author of the week. The first book to feature will be Dame Jacqueline Wilson's The Story Of Tracy Beaker, and will be available to access free for a week from 17 January.

Laptops for School.

The Government have stated that they are supplying schools with devices for some families. This is true. However, as is usual with this pandemic, things are not that straightforward! Schools have to apply via a DfE link. We have had our code to access this and are awaiting delivery of our very limited number of tablets. Also, there is strict criteria as to which families are eligible. We will keep you updated on this



matter. In the meantime, we are doing a survey around what devices are being used at home and how the internet is accessed, so when you get your email, please do take the time to reply.

Bagels for Breakfast

For those children not in school and therefore not able to have their bagel, you will be provided with an “at home breakfast pack” each week, either when you collect your week’s work or when you collect your food hamper if you are receiving free school meals.

Free School Meals Hampers

If you are receiving texts regarding these but don’t wish to have them, please contact Mrs Jenkin in the office to let her know. A lot of work goes into preparing the hampers and it is a waste of both time and food when they are not collected, when the resources could be allocated elsewhere. The hampers are slightly different to last time, they now contain some canned food and larger quantities of some items e.g. eggs and bread.

Thank you of your positive messages of support – staff really appreciate your kindness and understanding. Take care of each other.

Mrs Waplington.

