

Newsletter Spring Term

Dear Parent/Carer,

First and foremost, I wanted to say a huge thank you for all of the support we have received from our families during these incredibly challenging times. We are all learning together to manage remote learning, which is still relatively new to all of our children, parents and staff.

Parent Remote Learning Survey

Thank you to all the parents who completed our recent remote learning survey. We are pleased that so many of you left positive comments about the work we are providing. While we know that remote learning is no substitute for being in the classroom with a teacher, it is reassuring to hear that our home learning is working well for the overwhelming majority of our families.

We have looked carefully at every response and we will use those to continue to adapt our remote learning provision to improve it further. The table below shows some of the findings from the survey and how we are responding to them...

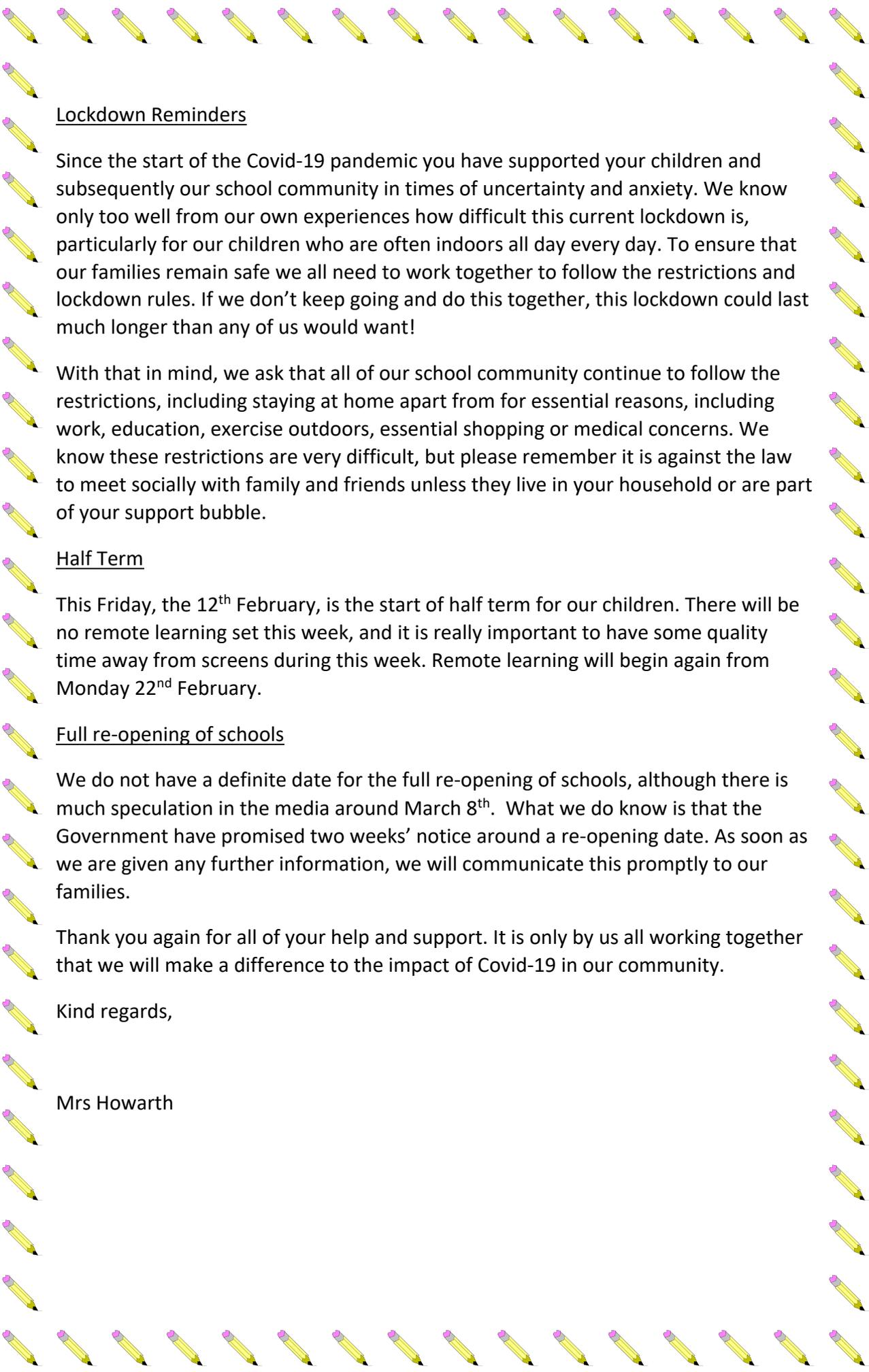
Survey Finding	Response
80% of parents are happy with the amount of work provided. 10% say they want more work and 10% say they want less.	We will maintain the same amount of work but if parents would like additional work, they can contact teachers who will be able to provide additional guidance. If parents are struggling with the amount of work, they can contact teachers and discuss options for supporting children in different ways. Please contact the school office if you would like to arrange a phone call with your child's teacher.
Some parents were concerned that their children were not practising their handwriting as much as usual.	Most work we set can be completed on paper if parents wish to do this and then send a photo of the finished work to the teacher. Each week teachers will encourage children to complete some work on paper but will always be happy to accept digital work too.
Some parents were not aware that teachers are available throughout the day to support their child's learning.	Teachers continue to be available via email throughout the school day and are happy to support children with their learning. It is important that children are encouraged to contact their teachers if they are finding the work difficult so that teachers are able to help.

Some parents reported that their children needed a lot of support to complete the work set each day.	Teachers will consider different ways to ensure that some of the work provided during the week can be completed with minimal parent support. It is important to realise though that we do not want to just provide simple work which is easy to complete but has no educational benefit.
Some parents said they would like us to provide live lessons or a chance for children to communicate with their teacher in a live class meeting.	We have considered this carefully and believe that live lessons would be difficult for many of our children to access who are sharing devices in the home which is the case for many families. We have decided that we will introduce a live weekly class meeting where children can communicate with their teachers. Further details will be sent out soon.
Some parents commented that it was difficult to submit work during school hours due to other commitments.	We know that this is difficult for some parents and, while we would prefer children to stick to a normal routine of school work between 9am and 3pm, we will still be happy to receive work after 3pm and provide feedback the following day.
Out of 92 responses on the survey, the average score given to our remote learning offer was 4.5 out of 5	We are very pleased with this score but will continue to work with families to improve our remote learning to ensure that pupils continue to make good progress in their learning in these challenging times.

Finally, we just wanted to say that we know how difficult it is to manage home schooling and we have been so impressed with how many of our children are submitting every piece of work every day to a very high standard. Thank you for all your support in these difficult times.

Communication

In order to communicate more effectively with parents, we are in the process of moving to communicate as much as possible via email. We have sent texts to request two email addresses per family and have had a good response so far. If you think we do not have the right email addresses to contact you, please ring the school office to update your contact details. This is really important as it is our intention to use emails as our main way to communicate with our families moving forward.



Lockdown Reminders

Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic you have supported your children and subsequently our school community in times of uncertainty and anxiety. We know only too well from our own experiences how difficult this current lockdown is, particularly for our children who are often indoors all day every day. To ensure that our families remain safe we all need to work together to follow the restrictions and lockdown rules. If we don't keep going and do this together, this lockdown could last much longer than any of us would want!

With that in mind, we ask that all of our school community continue to follow the restrictions, including staying at home apart from for essential reasons, including work, education, exercise outdoors, essential shopping or medical concerns. We know these restrictions are very difficult, but please remember it is against the law to meet socially with family and friends unless they live in your household or are part of your support bubble.

Half Term

This Friday, the 12th February, is the start of half term for our children. There will be no remote learning set this week, and it is really important to have some quality time away from screens during this week. Remote learning will begin again from Monday 22nd February.

Full re-opening of schools

We do not have a definite date for the full re-opening of schools, although there is much speculation in the media around March 8th. What we do know is that the Government have promised two weeks' notice around a re-opening date. As soon as we are given any further information, we will communicate this promptly to our families.

Thank you again for all of your help and support. It is only by us all working together that we will make a difference to the impact of Covid-19 in our community.

Kind regards,

Mrs Howarth