

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and friends,

Well.... we have nearly made it to the end of a very damp and cold January - the days are getting just a little bit longer and I have seen a few clumps of snowdrops here and there which means that it can't be too far off Spring?!

Our first week of lateral flow testing has gone well in school. Our staff do a home Covid test on a Sunday evening and a Wednesday evening. If the member of staff tests positive, all contacts have to isolate until they have had an actual Covid test (known as a PCR test) to see whether this is positive or negative. This may mean that if that member of staff has been teaching a bubble, we would have to close the bubble and the children and staff in it would have to isolate temporarily, until we have received the test outcome. If it is negative, they would be able to come straight back into school, but if it is positive, they would need to isolate for 10 days. Someone has said to me that this does feel a bit like the 'Hokey Cokey', but we are hopeful that this new measure in schools helps us to further reduce the risk of transmission.

The announcement from the government this week that schools may return on the 8th March gives us all fresh hope that the roll out of vaccines and rigorous school testing will help us to be back together in school as soon as we can. We had a chat with our school council this week, who gave us some really useful feedback about how they are tackling home learning, and it gave us some prompts for further support and ideas for children across the school. Everyone has a slightly different approach and we are pleased that our learning packs are being used and followed as per the timetable for those who prefer the structure, and that others are fitting it into the best routine for them, depending on everyone's situation at home.

It has also been great to receive feedback through our phone calls with all our families to check-in this week. We are continually reflecting on and reviewing how we can support our community the best we can and the best way to do that is, through regular communication with yourselves so thank you again for your support.

Our engagement in home learning is as follows this week..

	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Last week	79%	95%	93%	95%	88%	83%	86%
This week	96%	100%	96%	95%	92%	75%	90.9%

Progress in most classes from last week! Well done to Year one with 100%....!

There are two 'events' or National initiatives taking place next week...

The first is '**storytelling week**'. All the children love listening to the stories that we tell, so now we would like them to entertain us! We have chosen some objects, that you will find around the house, to use as characters or props in your own stories...

- a 'magic carpet'
- a sock
- a toothbrush



You can invent and tell your story either individually, together with siblings or as a family! It's a great opportunity to let your imaginations run wild. We would love to hear your stories, so if you could video them and send them to your class emails, that would be AMAZING! Alternatively, you could type them and send them via email! It might be a bit of fun for over the weekend and we will share some more stories read by famous authors through our Facebook page throughout the week next week.



It is also **Children's mental health** week next week. The theme is 'express yourself', which links well to our storytelling task. There are some really supportive activities and ideas for parents and children to do together at home on the 'Place 2 Be' website

at: <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/parents-and-carers/>

As a staff team, we want our children to feel a sense of belonging to our school and remind them that we are here to provide help and care, even from a distance. We approached our Friends of Moorside, who have really kindly put together a well-being pack for all our pupils, with some things to enjoy and something to grow and nurture. I am so grateful to them for doing this and hope that it makes our children smile when they receive them. They will be distributed with learning packs next Friday or sent home with children who are in school. We will of course arrange delivery for those in isolation.

It has been lovely to welcome our Early Years and Years 5 and 6 bubbles back into school this week. We really hope that everyone keeps safe and well at home and in school. Have a good weekend and please remember that we are just a phone call or email away if you need any help/support/a chat!

Best wishes,  
**Mrs Rowett**  
Headteacher