



Ripponden Junior and Infant School

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“Challenge and enjoyment leading to excellence for all”

Headteacher: Mrs L Bamforth

Sunday 24th January 2021

Dear parents/carers,

Well – here we are, 3 weeks into home schooling and can I just say thank you and well done. It is not easy – we know that and to get through 3 weeks is tremendous, so well done. We still don't know when there will be an end-point to this lockdown, but again, in true Ripponden style – we are all in this together and like the community that we are, we will support each other.

The groups in school are pretty much at capacity now and the staff who are working in school are working really hard to replicate the same offer as home learning, as they are following the same pattern and activities. Teachers who are setting and evaluating the home learning offer, as well as holding Google Meets, 1:1s and providing regular and timely feedback to all pieces of work are working exceptionally hard and often later into the day/evening.

We have listened to the feedback of parents and staff and have provided a similar pattern of work across a week. We have planned live Google Meets, so they don't overlap with siblings' and staff have been in touch with families who have appeared to have some barriers to their online learning.

However....we are really conscious that the children (and staff!) are pretty much glued to screens for the vast majority of the day. At the moment, this is a bit of an inevitability with remote learning, but from this week, we are looking to introduce regular well-being days; days away from screens.

So, on Wednesday we will be holding a Well-Being Wednesday. We are currently building a 'menu' of different non-screen activities for the children to choose from, which cover different aspects, including physical, wild challenge, crafts and mindfulness/wellbeing. As it is a non-screen day, there will be no Google Meets or online work set. You are very welcome to upload photos to the Google Classroom for your teacher to see – I am sure they would love to see them! The keyworker children will be completing similar, non-screen activities in school.

This is a commitment to our ethos surrounding mental health and wellbeing of our children and staff. It is not designed to put extra pressure on families, but to relax away from the screen for a day is beneficial for all. We will send the 'menu' out as soon as possible for you to choose your activities.

Many thanks for your continued support,

Lorraine Bamforth - Headteacher



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