



# 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

## Dear Parents,

Another half term has passed by. It has been amazing and encouraging to see the children's resilience as they continue to adapt to the new normal of remote and online learning and so encouraging seeing more children and families engage with this style of learning. We have managed to get over 50 devices out to families who have needed it and continue to try to get support for those of you who still need it.

Lockdown has been particularly tough for many this time round. The longer nights and colder/wetter days have left many members of our community struggling. Although school is closed to the majority of pupils, we are still here and are happy to help and advise where we can for any of you who may need it.

## Free School Meals (FSM)

If you qualify for FSM, you will have been received an email for your FSM voucher from Wonde for half term. During the week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> February, you will receive an email from Edenred for the next set of term time vouchers.

## Staff News:

We are delighted to welcome Mrs McGaw from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February as our new SENDCo. Mrs McGaw is an experienced teacher and SENDCo and serves on the governing body at another local school. Mrs McGaw will be working Monday - Wednesday each week and no doubt, after a short settling in period will begin getting to know some of you in more depth.

After Easter, Mrs Sinclair will be joining us as our new Vice Principal. Mrs Sinclair is also local and is an experienced senior leader.

Sadly, Mrs Taylor our Assistant Principal will be leaving us at the end of this academic year. Mrs Taylor will remain within Aspirations Academies Trust as she has accepted a leadership role at the new Livingstone Academy from September 2021. We are currently advertising for a new Early Years Leader and Mrs Taylor will play a strong role in that process and the handover between herself and the successful candidate when the time comes.

## Half Term Closure:

School will be closed to all pupils including those of Key Workers and considered vulnerable for the February half term (15<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> February). This is per the DfE guidance. There will be no work set to complete for any year groups during this week. We wish everyone a peaceful and restful week.

## School reopening:

As of yet, we do not know exactly when schools will reopen more widely or fully. We will keep you informed of our plans shortly after the government makes their announcement. As ever, the safety of the children, my staff and their families as well as the wider community remain of paramount importance.

## Covid reporting:

Even if your child is not currently attending school, please do report if you they have a positive Covid test. This can be done through [covidreporting@jewell-aspirations.org](mailto:covidreporting@jewell-aspirations.org)

If your child is currently in school and they or any member of your household displays symptoms, the entire household must isolate immediately and book a test. Please do communicate to us if you are having to isolate and any subsequent test results. This can also be done on the above email.

It is essential you do this so that we can take the appropriate action in closing bubbles if necessary to keep ourselves and other families safe.



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## Praise and thanks:

I would like to congratulate all the children coming into school for their attitudes to learning even when things feel strange.

I would also like to congratulate the children working from home.

Thank you to all you parents who are juggling home schooling, your own work and lockdown life.

I would also like to thank my amazing team who pulled together one evening in early January and managed to juggle the stresses and strains of providing remote education and in school educating with 12 hours notice.

Everyone deserves a well-earned rest over the half term and we look forward to welcoming back the children of Key Workers and those considered vulnerable on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.