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Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's been another exceptional week of remote learning – you and your children have absolutely blown us away with the fabulous job those of you at home are doing at being mum and dad/teachers! It is a great privilege to peep into your lives and see exceptional deals that your children are having through the most challenging of times.

Updates for you from this week:

### **February Half Term- Vouchers**

Nottinghamshire have now stated that they will be funding vouchers for those entitled to Free School Meals over the half term. All children who are entitled to Free School Meals will receive their £15 voucher. We are applying for extra vouchers for families who may be struggling- and will let those individual families know if our bid is successful.

### **Lateral Flow Testing in Schools**

We have had no positive results to date. Staff test on Sunday and Wednesday evenings. In the event of a bubble closure we will notify you via Class Dojo on these evenings.

If in school, your child should have come home with a blank exercise book last week so that they can continue their learning at home in the event of a 'burst' bubble. Some of your children have been given additional resources to support their remote learning. Hopefully all parents whose children are in school have found time to look on Class Dojo to see how the remote learning is organised.

### **Mixing outside of school**

Majority of you are all helping us keep the children, staff and school community safe- thank you. However, a minority of you believe it acceptable to mix with other households- for example, sleep overs with cousins at the weekend or having relatives over. I have highlighted the importance of adhering to current national restrictions many times to you, yet some families refuse to abide by the law and support our efforts as a school community.

Therefore moving forwards, any breaches by children attending the school will be viewed as jeopardising the health and wellbeing of the school bubble and relevant staff and, as such, will place them at risk of losing their keyworker/vulnerable child place in school. I say this with great difficulty, however I cannot jeopardise the safety of our school community for those who do not support our local and national effort.



Again, the majority of you are amazing and are doing all you can to stay safe and keep the school community safe. Thank you. Those of you at home who are learning and working remotely- thank you for doing all you can to stay safe- you're still a part of our school community and we can't wait to see you all again soon.

### **Children's Mental Health Week**

The theme of this week was to 'Express Yourself' and we have had lots of videos sent in of children singing, dancing, playing instruments and dressing in ways they feel suits how they wish to express themselves. Children's mental health is always important to us, not just for this week. If you feel that your child needs support with their wellbeing- including those learning remotely- please let the school know.

### **Communication with School and Staff**

When sending messages to staff via Class Dojo please remember to start messages with a 'Hi, Hello' or even with a 'Good morning' before starting your message. Some messages sent to staff are impolite and bordering on rude. I understand that home learning and working must be difficult and we are trying to make it as easy as possible. Class Dojo is not a social platform nor instant messaging- please only send us photos and messages that relate to your child.

Kindly address the teachers with respect- if you are not able to do so, please contact me via the office and we can discuss the best way of you communicating with the academy.

### **Feel Good Fridays**

Our first Feel Good Friday was a success! All staff dressed in fancy dress which, I'm sure you can imagine, caused quite a stir amongst the children! There were giggles and fits of laughter from staff and children alike. We loved seeing pictures of children dressed up at home too!

Don't forget that next Friday 12th February is a dress down day- all children can dress in a way that makes them feel good! They can wear football shirts, fancy dress, traditional clothing or just their 'usual' clothes- its up to them!

### **Snow**

I'm sure you've seen snow is due to fall this weekend and into next week. As before, we will make the call on whether the academy is open or not, in the morning by 7am. We were one of the only schools locally to open as we knew how important it was for our critical worker parents to be able to work. As long as the staff can get in safely, we will open.

I usually start my letters thanking staff and families for their efforts but I will end on this note today; we really are fortunate to have such a supportive, committed and competitive (!) school community.

Have a warm, safe weekend.

Mrs Chandhoke  
Principal  
Rosecliffe Spencer Academy.