

DENVER V.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Carers

As we come to the end of another week, I wanted to touch base and give you an update on some of the things that have happened over the course of the week.

Firstly, I want to say a huge thank you to all the children for their engagement in their remote learning this week. We are all so impressed at how quickly they have transitioned into this very different way of working, and also proud of the quality of work they are submitting. I would also like to say a huge thank you to all the parents for supporting the children with their tasks. We really do appreciate how difficult it is, especially when so many of you are working from home or have more than one child to support. You are all doing a fantastic job!

We hope that you have been able to engage with the live assemblies this week. We were not quite sure how it would all work out, but we were pleased to see so many children joining us – seeing their smiling faces really was lovely! From feedback, we know that some of you with children in different classes struggled to join the different class assemblies at the same time. Therefore, we will try to arrange for each class assembly to be on a different day or time going forward to enable as many children to join in as possible. Links for the whole school assemblies on Monday and Friday will be sent out via the assembly icon and the links for the class assemblies will be sent out by the class teachers – please look carefully for dates and times of these class assemblies. We look forward to seeing you all again next week.

We hope that you are happy with the timetable of remote learning we as a school are providing currently. Thank you for all the lovely messages we have received so far from children and parents – these really do mean a lot to the staff. We are always open to feedback, therefore please do communicate with us if you have any suggestions for ways in which the current provision could be further improved.

We want to offer as much support as we possibly can for the children working at home. Therefore, if your child is struggling with a particular lesson or concept, please contact their class teacher who can arrange an individual Teams call to offer support.

Please continue to encourage the children to read throughout this period of school closure. A number of parents have already contacted the school to collect some reading books at their child's reading level and we would encourage more of you to do this. Also, please do not forget that you can collect your child's Power Maths workbook from the office if you would like to.

I hope the children have all seen Mr Lawrence's weekly music videos which the class teachers have signposted you to. These will continue through this period of school closure and will hopefully offer some fun music learning for the children to engage with. Music could be scheduled into the timetable on the days the children do not have an assembly.



Mrs Henden has also sent out information regarding the WNSSP's School Games Challenges. There is a new challenge each week to help inspire the children to be active and I know lots of you have already engaged in this week's 'Fitness Challenge' – Mrs Henden has certainly been putting the children through their paces at school this week!

Please can I ask that you remind the children to be sensible when using Teams, particularly when sending messages/communication e.g. in the chat function during assemblies. Once something has been sent it is a permanent record, therefore the children need to be made aware of the importance of thinking carefully about what they post. We can see everything that the children add on Teams and will monitor the platform closely to ensure that the children are remembering all the e-safety messages they have been taught at school.

We are very aware that access to remote learning varies for our families. Some of you may not have suitable devices for your children to work on, and some of you have a number of children at home working from one device. Connectivity can also be an issue in this area and can affect children's ability to access and complete their work. Therefore, I have attached an 'Access to Remote Learning' survey and I would be very grateful if you would complete this, and return, by email, to the school office by Wednesday 20th January.

You may have seen an article in the EDP about the playing field car park which can be found at <https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/denver-playing-fields-upgrade-fundraising-6901874>. We hope that the Denver Playing Field Committee will be successful in raising funds to help them reach their £27,000 target, as the car park has been integral to us being able to get the children safely into school throughout the pandemic. The Denver Playing Field Committee have kindly agreed to keep the car park open over lockdown for the parents of the children still attending school to use. They are, however, planning on cordoning off areas of the car park where the surface is particularly bad.

Mrs Henden is attending Designated Safeguarding Lead training next Tuesday and Wednesday (19th and 20th) so will not be able to respond immediately to any work submitted or questions sent through on these days. She will, however, communicate as soon as she is able to, so please bear with her.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend and a good rest from what has I am sure been an intense week of home schooling. Please do get in touch with us at school if you need any help or have any queries or concerns. We want to support you and the children as much as we possibly can in these challenging times.

Take care and stay safe.

Louise Jones

Louise Jones
Headteacher

