

# DENVER V.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Discover • Value • Celebrate • Praise*

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Dear Parents/Carers

I cannot believe that we are already halfway through this half term. Well done to you all, children and parents, for getting through another week of remote learning. Once again, we are so proud of the children and impressed at how hard they are working at home. Thank you also to so many of you who have shared video clips and photos of the children engaged in their learning, it is always lovely to receive these. Keep up the great work everyone!

Thank you to those parents who have already returned the 'Access to Remote Learning' surveys. If you are experiencing difficulties in this area and have not yet returned the survey, you can still send it to the office and we will see if we can offer any additional support.

A number of children have requested individual Teams calls from their class teachers this week to support them with the remote learning, and found these to be extremely useful. Please do contact the teachers for extra support if your child is struggling with a particular concept – they are there to help.

To enrich the remote learning curriculum, please do encourage the children to engage with Mr Lawrence's music lessons and the School Games Challenges sent through by Mrs Henden. We know that many of you are enjoying engaging with these from the communications sent through to the teachers.

Please remember that you can collect reading books at your child's reading level from school at any point. Alternatively, Oak National Academy and the National Literacy Trust have come together to launch a Virtual School Library to keep children reading during lockdown. Each week, they will be highlighting an 'Author of the Week', starting with Dame Jacqueline Wilson, who will provide the children with free books, exclusive videos and their top three recommended reads. For more information, please visit [library.thenational.academy](https://library.thenational.academy). Another good resource is an App called Libby, which gives children access to lots of free books, as well as audiobooks for them to listen to.

I realise that some of you have been struggling to join the class assemblies and I apologise for this. To make it easier going forward, we have set up a new 'Team' for each class dedicated to class assemblies e.g. Class 1 Assembly. The teachers will send out links for their class assemblies through these Teams to avoid you having to search for links amongst the many remote learning assignments. We will endeavour to send the links on the day of each assembly, and if possible, re-send the links just before the assemblies are due to start. We hope that this will help you all to join us.

Last term, we introduced a Courageous Advocacy collective worship each week and I would like to continue this theme through an extra whole school assembly each Tuesday, starting next

week. In these assemblies, we will explore courageous advocates across the globe, both past and present, who have faced injustice and overcome barriers in order to help others for the greater good. I hope to see all the children there.

During assemblies, please remind the children not to use the chat function when the teacher is actually delivering the content, unless they have been asked for comments or answers to specific questions, as it can be very distracting for others following the assembly. The chat function can be used before the assembly starts and after the assembly has ended, although should not be used after 3.15pm.

For clarity, I have created the following assembly timetable for the next three weeks:

Week commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
25 <sup>th</sup> January	Whole School Assembly 2.45-3pm	Whole School Assembly 2.45-3pm	<b>Class 2</b> Assembly 2.30-2.45pm  <b>Class 3</b> Assembly 2.45-3pm	<b>Class 1</b> Assembly 2.30-2.45pm  <b>Class 4</b> Assembly 2.45-3pm	Whole School Celebration Assembly 2.45-3pm
1 <sup>st</sup> February	Whole School Assembly 2.45-3pm	Whole School Assembly 2.45-3pm	<b>Class 4</b> Assembly 2.30-2.45pm  <b>Class 3</b> Assembly 2.45-3pm	<b>Class 1</b> Assembly 2.30-2.45pm  <b>Class 2</b> Assembly 2.45-3pm	Whole School Celebration Assembly 2.45-3pm
8 <sup>th</sup> February	Whole School Assembly 2.45-3pm	Whole School Assembly 2.45-3pm	<b>Class 2</b> Assembly 2.30-2.45pm  <b>Class 3</b> Assembly 2.45-3pm	<b>Class 1</b> Assembly 2.30-2.45pm  <b>Class 4</b> Assembly 2.45-3pm	Whole School Celebration Assembly 2.45-3pm

With the children spending more time online during lockdown, I would like to signpost you to the following websites to help keep them safe online:

- [Thinkuknow](#) provides advice from the National Crime Agency (NCA) on staying safe online.
- [Parent info](#) is a collaboration between Parentzone and the NCA providing support and guidance for parents from leading experts and organisations.
- [Childnet](#) offers a toolkit to support parents and carers of children of any age to start discussions about their online life, to set boundaries around online behaviour and technology use, and to find out where to get more help and support.



- [Internet Matters](#) provides age-specific online safety checklists, guides on how to set parental controls on a range of devices, and a host of practical tips to help children get the most out of their digital world.
- [London Grid for Learning](#) has support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online, including tips to keep primary aged children safe online.
- [Net-aware](#) has support for parents and carers from the NSPCC and O2, including a guide to social networks, apps and games.
- [Let's Talk About It](#) has advice for parents and carers to keep children safe from online radicalisation.
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) has tips, advice, guides and other resources to help keep children safe online, including parental controls offered by home internet providers and safety tools on social networks and other online services.

Mr. Sexton has asked me to recommend the Big Schools Birdwatch, which is running between 6<sup>th</sup> January and 21<sup>st</sup> February. Please follow the RSPB's website for more information, suggested activities and resources at [https://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-teachers/schools-birdwatch/?channel=paidsearch&gclid=CjwKCAjw5fzrBRASEiwAD2OSV-5pOaJQFDQ6VLL140u6uhN38mXbrQdGDR0hhpoOa5K5zrEUQArehoCQ0MQAvD\\_BwE](https://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-teachers/schools-birdwatch/?channel=paidsearch&gclid=CjwKCAjw5fzrBRASEiwAD2OSV-5pOaJQFDQ6VLL140u6uhN38mXbrQdGDR0hhpoOa5K5zrEUQArehoCQ0MQAvD_BwE) The RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch is also running from 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> January and we would like all children, both in school and at home, to head outside next week and see which birds they can spot. Please do send in any photos and we can share these in our assemblies.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your continued support in these difficult times. I could not be prouder of how the school community is working together to do the very best for our children. I wish you all a lovely weekend and hopefully some better weather!

Take care and stay safe.

*Louise Jones*

Louise Jones  
Headteacher

