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## Headteacher Update 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

We did have a smattering of snow on the ground last weekend and just to prove it here is Mr G – my grandson in the garden – we did make a very mound of a snowman!



Week 3 finished – yay! You've been marvellous! The weather looks much better this weekend and as I do this update it's been great seeing children and parents collecting their learning packs for next week's learning. It has also been an opportunity for a chat and catch up. Even if you don't have a pack to collect you can always pop in to see the office or me on your daily walk.

Parents and carers please don't feel you have to do all the learning on offer, especially if you are managing lots of children's learning or you and your families well-being is suffering - we really don't want learning to be a battle ground and teachers have tried to plan interesting and appropriate tasks to do. The government have told schools to provide 4 hours of learning for your child, which we believe we have.

**BUT** you don't have to do it all! The priority is the basics (maths and English of course) but some days you could mix it up do some of the other activities instead - we have provided some suggested timetables but you don't have to follow it slavishly. However, it does give you a structure to the week day.

Having said that we do ask that if your child is part of our critical worker and vulnerable groups in school (but not in all week) children do the maths and the English every day to aid continuity when they do come into school.

We are planning to tweak the remote learning 'zoom' opportunities and assemblies to stop the Monday morning stress – so watch this space and read to the end of the newsletter!

### What's happened at Pixmore this week?

...The exciting news is that the Chromebooks from the DFE have arrived and have been 'loaned' to our families who really needed them. If you are having internet access problems, although we may not be able to offer you a chrome book, we might be able to help with data and/or wifi router, or a laptop, so please don't struggle ask for help. We've put our names down to get some 'recycled' laptops for learning through the BBC and UCL initiatives, so fingers crossed we'll be able to help even more families.



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The other initiative we have launched is ... Around the World in 80 days. It is 80 days from today until April 30<sup>th</sup> – and 40,000 km to circumnavigate the world, let's see if we as a whole school can get around the world in less!

Log your walks, jog, stair climbs, runs around the gardens into this form and then I can update you on your travels around the world every week, see where we get to?! Perhaps I'll have to give you a clue as to where we are?! The weather this weekend looks much better than last so try and get out and about. Socially distant of course!

This week, teaching staff will start the Lateral Flow Tests twice a week to check that staff are ok to be in school. A positive test from these tests are not definitive and staff members will have to follow up with a second test at a Drive-in Centre but fingers crossed it will re-assure both staff and parents. My only caveat is that if we do get a positive test it may mean closure of our groups in school as potentially all the staff and children within a year group will have had a 'close contact'.

Every update from now on will have some top tips in – attached are some Top Tips on reading from the Education Endowment Foundation.

All our families should be getting a call once a week if not more often, please ask them if you need more support or guidance with reading. We are here to hear you.

If your child has a birthday over the next few weeks, a birthday badge will be in the box in the reception area with their name on it and they get a mention in our Friday assemblies. So please pop in to get your child's badge. If your child is also mentioned for their home learning on a Friday assembly they will also get a Head teachers badge which will be in the box too.

**Star Seesaw posts this week comes from:** Year 4's star Seesaw post goes to Ruby-Rose B for fantastic effort and curiosity with her Science. Well done.

### **Mrs Evans Whole School 'Zoom' assemblies**

I thought Monday morning would be good to do assembly- start of the week etc. But this hasn't been the feedback I've been getting from some parents. I know that laptop time can be precious and the classes meet on a Monday morning for their Year group zooms. So as from February 5<sup>th</sup> this will become Mrs Evans whole school 'live' assembly on a **FRIDAY**. I will post the link to this assembly in next week's update so next **Monday 25<sup>th</sup>** will be my last Monday 'live' one. However, you will be able to view the assembly on vimeo.

Take Care & stay well.

**Mrs Alex Evans**  
Headteacher