



12th February, 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

We have made it to the end of another interesting half term at Appleton Wiske! The school community has really pulled together and the support we have received at school has been phenomenal – thank you. I would like to express my thanks once again to my incredible team; every single member of staff has played a vital role in keeping the school running whilst providing remote education to all the pupils.

HALF TERM HOLIDAY

It is really important that the children and teachers take some time out from looking at a screen. I'm sure you will appreciate that they have been working in a very different way over the last six weeks, and the half term break presents a welcome opportunity for some down time. I have asked the teachers not to access Microsoft Teams next week, so we would appreciate it if you could discourage your children from sending messages to their teacher; any messages will receive a response when the new half term begins. I will, however, be checking the admin emails regularly for any urgent correspondence. Thank you.

WORK PACKS

The teachers have worked hard to plan, prepare and produce work packs every two weeks for the pupils. Your child's new work pack is for the start of next half term. It is not for the half term holiday. Please don't use the packs until then, as they need to access the 'live' lessons in order to receive input from their teacher.

HOMEWORK

Your children have worked hard and need a break from home schooling. With that in mind, I have written to the pupils to explain that their half term homework is a one-word challenge which will hopefully encourage them to be creative. The letter is in their new work pack along with a newsletter from their teacher.

REMOTE LEARNING CHALLENGE CHECKLIST

The Local Authority are conducting remote learning challenge checklists with schools to assess the quality of their provision. After a rigorous evidence-based assessment process, we have been judged to be 'sustained'. This is the highest grade possible out of 5 categories, which is absolutely fantastic news! Therefore, based on our own evaluations, the Local Authority's assessment and the recent parent survey, our approach to remote education has been validated. We believe that the combination of 'live' lessons, work packs and feedback via Microsoft Teams is an effective approach for our school.

PUPIL SURVEY

Please encourage your child to complete our pupil survey so they can share their views with us. Here is the link:
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HJ3HZSG>

PANCAKE COMPETITION

We hope your child can take part in our Pancake Competition, organised by the School Council. The deadline is Monday 22nd February and we can't wait to see all the entries.

WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book Day is on Thursday 4th March. We are keen to do something to celebrate this event, so please save the date and we will let you know our plans. Don't worry, you won't have to create or buy a spectacular outfit!

SOUND BAR DONATION

Many thanks to Mr and Mrs Turner for donating a sound bar to school. It will certainly be put to good use.

I would like to wish you a happy and healthy half term break. Take care of yourselves and your loved ones.

Yours faithfully

Mr N Clark
Head Teacher

Happy, Healthy and Productive

