

Heaton Park Primary and Nursery School

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Wednesday February 10th 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I just wanted to give you an update on the situation in school as it stands and to thank you for your efforts in supporting your children with their learning and for your ongoing support and kind comments about the efforts that our teachers and staff are making during these difficult times. We know that supporting your children with their learning has been a real challenge for many of you and one that we could never have imagined being in place for so long when this began all those months ago. We finish for half term tomorrow and I hope you will take the opportunity to take a breather and to do some nice things together; even though it is a bit limited at the moment to a play in the park or a long walk.

School has faced many challenges over the past few months with school and class bubble closures. This has meant that staff have had to adapt quickly, moving at short notice from children being in school to remote learning. As this has gone on, we have improved the quality of our remote offer through SEESAW and other online forums and we are now including live sessions with teachers, which I know the children have enjoyed.

At present and with the latest lockdown, concerns and worries have increased somewhat for all of us. We are all finding things hard and I know the worries over your children's education are growing the longer this goes on. Please be assured that staff are doing their utmost to provide the best learning support that they can. They are currently teaching children in school as well as providing remote learning; this involves lots of different and conflicting approaches and preparation for live sessions. Teachers and staff do their very best to respond to children's work as quickly as they can but this cannot always be immediate. Teachers cannot respond late in the evenings or at the weekends, for instance. Negative comments on SEESAW about the quality or content of activities or response times from teachers are unnecessary and SEESAW is not the place for this. If you have a specific concern then please ask to speak with your class teacher directly.

Some uncertainty still exists as to when school will re-open and hopefully we will find out more during and just after the half term break. That being, we are still likely to be looking at more time in lockdown with school partially closed. As it goes on and if you start to feel overwhelmed then please do not feel that you must do every piece of work and if for any reason you do not feel your children are in the right place to learn at any particular time then do something else instead. All we are asking is that you work with us, as most of you do and just do the best you can. When our children do finally return to school where we all want them to be, then we will get every child back on track as quickly as we can. Our children will not be a lost generation and we will all work together to overcome any gaps in learning and overcome any other challenges we may encounter.

As soon as we have further information as to what the next steps maybe as regards schools re-opening then we will be in touch with our plans. Have a good half term and hopefully some rest.

Kindest Regards,

Mr P.J. Lord