



February Update

Dear parents/carers,

I wanted to write to update you on a few things coming up in the next weeks.

School Restart

You will have seen on the media last week that schools have now been instructed to continue offering remote learning until returning to school on **Monday 8th March**. We have been told that this return date is being kept under review and will be confirmed by the Department of Education closer to the time.

As a school, we want to pay tribute to you and say thank you for all of your support during this recent period of remote learning. We know that learning at home is not easy and we appreciate how well you are all doing. Please remember that we are here to support you in any way we can – please get in touch if you need anything.

Friday 5th February – Screen Free Friday

We're conscious that families and staff are spending more time using screens and devices during this period of remote learning. Whilst this offers many benefits, we also want to encourage adults and children to manage their screen time. On Friday 5th February, I have asked teachers to step away from their screens for the day and have asked them to set activities for the children that are not based on SeeSaw. As children will not be using screens for their learning, I have asked staff to work on other tasks that days, so they will not be able to respond through SeeSaw as they normally would. We hope this day will give you as a family the opportunity to do something different and experience learning in a different form.

Wednesday 10th February – Wednesday Blog

Normally, when children are using SeeSaw they don't see work that other children have produced. In our recent survey children said they would like to get the opportunity to see some of their classmates' work and engage with them. So, on Wednesday 10th February, the only activity set will be on a SeeSaw blog, designated just for your child's class. Their teachers will explain how they use the blog in more detail, but basically they will share a piece of work from their remote learning and get the opportunity to see and comment on what others have been doing. We hope it's a really positive experience and would encourage you to help your child use the blog.

Friday 12th February – School Development Day

There will be no remote learning on this day for the children. Teachers will be preparing material for the remote learning that is taking place after our half-term break.

15 – 19th February Half Term Holidays

Week beginning 1st March Parent Meetings/ Y7 Transfer Meetings

We will conduct these over the phone. We will send out a booking timetable for parents to sign up for a time through the West Winds app with interviews lasting 10 minutes. We will be providing less activities that week for remote learning as teachers will be spending time on conducting interviews.

8th March Return to school

Please do let us know if there is anything we can help with. We miss having your children in school and eagerly look forward to them returning as soon as possible.

Niall Manogue
Principal
office@estwindsprimary.co.uk