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Date: 20th November 2020

Dear Parents,

I just wanted to share a few things with you as another week draws to a close.

We still have not needed to send a bubble home which is amazing. I would like to thank you all for what you are doing to help us all stay safe. Looking ahead to these final weeks, I do want to make you aware that in some cases we are running on a skeleton staff on some days in some teams. This is because when a member of staff is off poorly etc. we are not able to replace them in the usual way by booking supply or by moving in a member from another team to readdress the numbers. This is because they are working in their bubbles. We will of course continue to do our very best to keep bubbles in school and therefore on days when we might be short staffed we might change the timetable so that we can just keep the day going, keep things manageable and keep children in school safely. The other day I told a team to put a film on as they were stretched for staff. Thank you for your understanding with this. Our amazing staff are flagging now and I want them to get to the end of term in one piece so our usual curriculum might have to slip here and there and things might take a little longer to get sorted. We also might miss a few deadlines with four weeks' notice for things as we are stretched. We will continue to do our very best.

If a year group bubble goes home then they will all need to be accessing the home learning. Children's passwords have been sent out a few times over the past months. However, we will send out a reminder to all parents in that year group if a bubble does go down. Please can you look for that in your inbox or junk before calling us if you have forgotten it. It would be quite difficult to manage potentially 96 phone calls. Hopefully you will have it stored somewhere or your child already knows it. Mr Farr will be on hand to talk through any technical problems during a bubble closure should you have them. We now know which families might benefit from borrowing an additional device to support home learning. We will get directly in touch with you to offer that to you should the time come.

To make sure that every child has a means of writing during a bubble closure we are going to be sending all pupils home with an exercise book and a pencil in the coming days. Over half of parents said that they did not have access to a printer so we are making sure that our home learning is not dependent on any work requiring this.

In other news:

- Please look out for the amazing PTFA raffle and buy your tickets to support the school.
- Bess won't be in school for a week or so. Following a trip to the vets and an X-ray they have confirmed that she has some soft tissue damage so needs to rest up. It means no playing with the tennis ball for a week or two or fun playdates with her friend Milo, so she is not very happy!
- Don't forget that school is closed to pupils next Friday as we have a staff training day.

Please all take care and I will see you back next week.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Hunter
Headteacher