



**CLARE COMMUNITY**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs Rebecca Loader BA (Hons) NPQH

Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, we've finally made it to half-term. I hope you all enjoyed the little bit of light relief afforded by the snow days on Monday and Tuesday. I, for one, found it a bit of a stress-buster. It took a while to wrap up and get outside, but Cami the dog, my three children and I had an exciting walk across the fields. The snow had drifted across a lot of the paths and it was up to our knees in places. Cami absolutely loved the snow, and had a lot of snowballs thrown at him. He also kept trying to eat the snow which was very entertaining; the children also found it fun to fashion him balls out of snow of which he then couldn't get a grip in his mouth!



With all this excitement, the walk took so long that we had to be picked up by my husband in the end and rushed back home so that I was in time for a Governors' meeting! See if you can spot me in the picture; I've really enjoyed seeing the pictures of all the children outside with their families and I know that some of them were thrilled to also see their friends outside in the snow. I have to say that it was nice to have a rest from home-schooling and just focus on having fun outside and being a parent rather than a teacher- from your comments on Tapestry, I can tell that a lot of you felt the same. I am so glad we live in such a beautiful rural setting during times like these.



## Parents' Evenings

Normally, this would be the time of year when we would schedule our second Parents' Evenings of the school year. Clearly, these aren't appropriate at the current time, when the majority of children are not in school. I hope that we will be able to arrange these for the end of the Spring term, when I also hope that children will have been in school for a few weeks and we will have been able to assess their current levels of attainment and progress. However, we will not know this for certain until we know the Government's route map out of lockdown which I believe will be presented at the end of February.

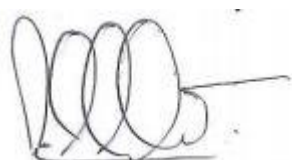
## Tapestry

A massive thank you for using our online learning systems so well this half-term. We have had an excellent response to the live Zoom sessions, with a very high rate of attendance throughout the school, and you have all been brilliant at uploading your children's learning to Tapestry and accessing the resources from it. We have all survived the frustrations of the dodgy internet connections and turned the air blue when the programmes or apps crash (sorry, mum!), but the general consensus seems to be that we have got it about right at the moment, and we intend to keep the current systems in place until we can resume normal schooling.

None of these would be possible without the hard work and patience of our amazing team of teachers and teaching assistants who have run a full programme of live lessons, pre-recorded videos, actual teaching in school, individual Zoom meetings for children who have struggled and phone meetings with parents seeking support, plus posted feedback on the hundreds of posts on Tapestry. I am sure you will agree that they have been absolutely brilliant in these most unusual circumstances.

Now we have a week to hunker down and take care of ourselves and our families. Keep warm; keep active; enjoy some family movies, maybe with a hot chocolate and marshmallows (!); and keep talking your children through any anxieties they might have. I look forward to my next communication to you containing some more positive news.

Warmest wishes,



Rebecca Loader



Headteacher

