



Dear Parents and Carers,

Only a week to go till the end of half-term now. You've all done brilliantly, but there is no surprise that we are all flagging at this stage: tempers are waning and the default mood is `fed-up`. The internet has been rather shaky this week in school, which has been a bit of a pain, to say the least. Sorry for the unsuspecting families in Monday's assembly who suddenly ended up being the `hosts` of the meeting; I hope you all got the link to the trailer- it's typical that it cut out just before the highlight of the presentation!! I think it all grinds to a bit of a halt on a Monday morning as everyone is trying to access lessons, plans, work stuff etc etc. We also had a few issues with Zoom meetings on that morning. Luckily, the Friday assembly seems to have been unaffected at present, apart from poor Mr Wilson last week. It is absolutely wonderful to see so many of you at these assemblies- we still have such a strong community spirit and seeing you all there certainly raises my spirits at the end of the week.

One thing I have enjoyed is seeing all the cooking that has been taking place at home. It's always the thing that children say they would like to do more of in school so don't be worried about taking some time out of the day to include children in this activity- it's a real life-skill and the results are always yummy even if they don't always turn out exactly like the picture! My eldest daughter has enjoyed doing some baking over the last two weeks and one recipe I can thoroughly recommend is `Cheats Churros` from Tilly Ramsey's cookbook. You basically cut a block of readymade ready-rolled puff pastry into strips, we then twisted them because it was fun, pop them into the oven to cook, and meanwhile melt some chocolate. We did this in a bowl over a saucepan but a microwave is easy if you keep watch. Then we melted some butter, mixed cinnamon with granulated sugar in a flat bowl and we were ready to dunk.... we took the golden churros out of the oven (about 20 minutes) then dipped in the melted butter, sugar and cinnamon and then arranged on a plate. Then you are ready for the hungry hordes who can dip their warm crunchy churros in melted chocolate before eating. Delicious!

I am receiving an increasing amount of emails requesting places for children back in school. Our position is this. The latest government document cites that the majority of primary schools have about 20% of their roll on site. 38% of our school roll are in school at present; following the government guidance we have given places to children who have critical workers as parents and booked their places at the beginning of the school closure, those who would be classed as vulnerable and SEND children who cannot easily work from home. There are three more weeks of home-schooling before the government have said that schools are likely to start opening. If we took all the children into school whose parents are finding it difficult to work or teach their children at home, almost everyone would be back. This arrangement is not satisfactory for anyone, but we have expanded our roll as much as we possibly can. In two weeks' time, I should know the plan to resume `normal` schooling again, and I will communicate with you the arrangements for this as soon as I can.

To end on a positive note, it has been cheering to spot some signs of spring around the school this week- on a site walk on Monday, the site manager and myself saw some clumps of snowdrops growing in the woodland area. They don't usually get a look in with the children running over the ground so much, so at least something is benefiting from less footfall.





Lastly, just to let you know that the Unite and Grow Parent Support Group has been moved to a private group address:

Unite and Grow

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/462397974777342/?ref=share>

[Unite and Grow](#)

WELCOME to our channel Unite and Grow! During these challenging times we wanted to offer up a nurturing space for parents and children. Over the last 25 years we have tried many different modalities...

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Details of further sessions running via the Zoom platform over the coming days and weeks will be shared here. Currently there are 43 members in the group and the feedback has been 100% positive.

We have also sent the term dates for 2021-22, which you can find attached. Have a break at the weekend and remember that the end is in sight. We will continue to support you in any way we can.

Warm wishes,

Rebecca Loader

Mrs. Rebecca Loader
Headteacher

