

Pheasey Park Farm Primary School and Early Years Centre

Address: Wimperis Way, Great Barr, Birmingham, B43 7DH

Telephone: 0121 366 6183

School Email: postbox@pheasey.org.uk **Early Years Centre Email:** early-years@pheasey.org.uk

Website: www.pheaseyparkfarmprimary.co.uk / www.elstonhallmat.co.uk

Twitter: @PheaseySchool

Head of School: Mrs S Arnold **Executive Head Teacher:** Mrs S Lanni

Early Years Centre Managers: Miss T Ilsley and Mrs L Smith

Chief Executive Officer: Mr K Grayson



Pheasey Park Farm
Primary School and
Early Years Centre

Thursday, 11th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Half Term Newsletter

Thank you

As another half term comes to a close, we never would have thought we would find ourselves in the position schools are currently in. I would like to thank all parents for their support during this difficult half term where we have all experienced new challenges along the way.

Thank you to parents who have been working at home and juggling home schooling at the same time. Many of our staff are in similar circumstances and we completely acknowledge how difficult this has been. Thank you for persevering - we are all hoping the situation changes soon and we can welcome children back into school where they belong.

We would also like to take the opportunity to thank our key worker parents for all their support over the last 6 weeks and their acknowledgement of the hard work our Caretaker and Site Manager put in to make our school site safe during the snow and icy weather conditions.

Thank you to all the children who continue to do the very best they can in such different and difficult circumstances. We have written a letter specifically for the children which will also be sent to them via your link - please share with them!

Dinner Money

We wish to remind parents to check their SIMS Pay account as a large amount of dinner money remains outstanding from prior to this recent lockdown. We would appreciate parents clearing the debt or making a payment towards the outstanding amount as we appreciate people's circumstances may have been affected during lockdown. If you have an outstanding debt and are unable to make a payment, please contact the School Office to discuss.

Half Term

Please note that School will close for the half term holiday tomorrow and those children currently attending will return to school on Monday 22nd February.

We are not setting any formal work for the children over half term - we feel that both parents and children need the break and a rest from the pressures of remote learning. That said, there are activities on the Learning Platform which could be accessed if you choose - there are music lessons, PE challenges and lots of stories for the children read by the staff.



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Pastoral Support

We know that children are generally resilient - but these are exceptional circumstances that we are living in and we know that children will have struggled at different times over the lockdown. It may be that they are missing their friends, their teachers or the routine of school, or it may be that they are finding things too difficult to get used to at home.

We have found that the live lessons are a valuable way for the children to have daily 'contact' with their teachers and classmates and although this is not an ideal situation, the overwhelming response from parents had been extremely positive - especially now that the initial technical issues have largely been resolved.

Teachers are feeding back to individual children on all pieces of work that are uploaded onto OneNote. This communication backwards and forwards is the best way we have found to feedback to the children, address any difficulties they have had and let them know that their teacher is still there and values their work. If we had just given out packs of work, this would not have been possible.

We would like to signpost parents to the 'Pastoral Support' button at the bottom of the main page on the Learning Platform. Here, there are activities to support Mental Health, stories and links to various sites. We will be adding to this regularly so please encourage your child to have a look.

If you feel your child is having particular difficulties, please contact us directly on postbox@pheasey.org.uk.

Updates

Please note that the Government are considering a full return to school on 8th March 2021 - however this is not set in stone and we will continue to look out for any confirmation. As soon as we receive details of the planned return to school we will inform parents of the arrangements.

Thank you again for your messages of support and for everything you are doing to support your children. We wish you all a relaxing and peaceful break.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S. Arnold
Head of School

