

Dear Parents/Carers

Well done everyone - we have already completed a full week of this lockdown. When things are feeling difficult, try to keep in mind that this is not forever and things will get better. Please don't feel isolated –we are here to support you. You are very welcome to pick up the phone to talk through any worries you may have.

Congratulations and a huge thank you for your support with Children in Need. We raised an amazing £220 and had lots of fun too!

Although we can't have our usual Christmas events which we love sharing with you, we have been making plans for some fun festive activities for the children and whole school community to light up our lives! The PTFA will be sending out further information too.

Kind regards

J. Halliday

Mrs Jackie Halliday

Christmas Festive Fun



Christmas craft afternoons.

Each Friday starting next week we will be having Xmas craft fun in class. We will also be playing Xmas songs from 27th November (So we don't peak too soon!)

Christmas grotto

We will be turning the lodge into a winter grotto and having some fun activities with small groups of children at a time so that all the children in KS2 have a turn.



Virtual Father Christmas

We are aiming for Father Christmas to pay a virtual visit to the children in KS1, which will cause great excitement.



Christmas dinner 10th December

We will be having our usual fun Christmas dinner in the classrooms thanks to our fabulous cook Mrs Owens. A letter will be coming out shortly about this.

Christmas Parties Thursday 17th December



Festive jumper day Friday 18th December

Don't forget to wear your festive hats when dropping off/picking up as is the Messing School tradition! A prize for the most creative Xmas headwear!

How are we supporting pupils?

Since returning to school full time in September teachers have used a range of strategies to assess the children's current attainment levels and identify any gaps in their learning. We have a range of support strategies in place including additional writing support with Mrs Saddington; these may be for just a few weeks for a quick revision and catch up or for a little longer. Extra phonics sessions are supporting Year 1 and 2 pupils to revise their phonics knowledge. Children who didn't take the assessment at the end of Year 1 last year will have the opportunity at the end of this term and again at the end of the Summer term if needed.

We also have a catch up maths programme running in KS1 and 2. Other support includes pre-teaching in maths to encourage confidence and a range of spelling interventions.

Our wellbeing support programme is continuing with additional PSHE sessions and discussion times to give children the opportunity to share and talk about any worries.

Introducing Ollee – a virtual friend (ParentZone/BBC Children In Need)

Ollee is a digital friend for children aged 8-11, created by Parent Zone and funded by BBC Children in Need's A Million & Me initiative, which aims to make a difference to children's emotional wellbeing.

It's designed to help children reflect on how they feel and to process their experiences with the support and help of their parents and carers – and it does this by offering them advice about a range of subjects: school, family, friends, their body, the internet and the world.

For each of these subjects, children can choose an emotion that matches how they feel about it: happy, angry, sad, confused, frustrated, stressed or worried.

Next, they can choose from a list of topics – for instance, a child who was worried about school might be able to select 'I haven't done my homework' as the cause of their worry. Finally, they'll see a page of advice about the topic, presented in child-friendly bite-sized chunks they can read then or save for later.

You can find more information and download the Ollee app here: <https://parentzone.org.uk/Ollee>