

Awliscombe C of E Primary School
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Head of School: Mr Nick Bladon

The FORT Federation

“Living, loving and learning forever; becoming the best as we journey together.”

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Penny Hammett

12th February 21

Dear Parents,

Congratulations, we've made it through to half term.

I know just how difficult it has been for you all to support home learning and carry on with families, jobs and all the other extra worries and concerns. You have all done a fabulous job. You really are the best set of families a Head teacher could ask for.

Your patience, support and kindness towards the staff and school has helped us get to today and still be all smiling. Everyone connected to our school has pulled together and made a very difficult time more bearable. So, I want to say thank you.

In a report to full governors this week I informed them of the progress everyone is making in home learning. If you look back to where we all were on January 5th, I would say we are worlds apart now and the improvement is unmeasurable and the evidence in pupil engagement and standards of 'turned in' work is fantastic. We have already had to focus on rewriting our school improvement plan as the children's ICT has made huge strides forward and we need to build on their newfound knowledge and confidence within class.

Thank you for your patience, support and understanding this half term. I know there are families really struggling at this moment in time. I would like to remind you that as a school we can offer help and guidance. We will also be able to signpost you to more expertise help if necessary.

One slight tweak you will see after the holiday is, we will be introducing a dedicated non screen day for children on a regular basis but no more than once a week. We are very aware that children are spending considerably more time on a screen now using google classroom and potentially may play on an Xbox or games box in their down time. This is increasing the time the children are sharp focussing on a screen and we are aware of the health guidance on the number of daily hours which is best for children. Please remember if there is an activity that doesn't require the screen please encourage the children not to use it.

We are eagerly awaiting the news from Boris about our return to school. Obviously, the 8th March would be our earliest date but are keeping fingers crossed that he opens the whole school

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and not particular year groups. He has promised two weeks' notice so hopefully we will have time to plan and communicate in good time with you all.

I am still required by the DFE and Public Health England to collect the information on children and families showing of symptomatic signs of COVID19. I am required to record names and dates to support track and trace within our community. Please can I ask you to phone the COVID hotline 07498645336 if any members of your family need a PCR test and are showing symptoms. They even require me to collect information from those families without children in school so please let me know.

So finally, please have a complete rest from home schooling next week. Enjoy some quality time together and let's hope for a little snow to cheer us up.

Penny

Penny Hammett
Executive headteacher
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