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**Message from Mrs Hird**

To say it has been a turbulent week would be a bit of an understatement but, as I’m sure you will agree, our fantastic team have adapted to a national lockdown, remote learning, key worker provision and snow with their usual enthusiasm and dedication! I feel so fortunate to have such a committed staff team and want to publicly extend my thanks to them for being so amazing!

I must also say a huge thank you to you and your children for your patience and resilience this week. It has been wonderful to hear how quickly the children have adjusted to yet another ‘new normal’ and I know their teachers have loved receiving photographs and work and seeing the children either in school or on Zoom calls.

Our blended learning offer is slightly different in comparison to the 2020 lockdown and our teachers will be sharing their plans with you shortly, if they haven’t done so already. We hope that all children will engage as fully as possible with their learning and join in with any Zoom calls set up by the staff. However, we also appreciate that each family has their own individual circumstances so please do not feel under pressure to do everything if you are struggling. We are here to help, so please let a member of staff know if you require any support.

Finally, thank you for your understanding. When I was hurriedly sending out emails on Monday evening, following the government announcement, I was genuinely touched by the supportive comments coming in from parents. This isn’t a situation that anyone would ever have hoped to be in but I know that we will come through this together. If the last twelve months have shown us anything, they have demonstrated the incredible power that comes through being part of a community and I am very grateful to be part of this one.

Take care, stay safe and please do get in touch if there is anything I or the staff can do to help.

 *Mrs Hird*

**Health and safety**

We are continuing to follow our covid risk assessment for all children accessing the key worker provision. Thank you to parents accessing the provision for social distancing and wearing masks.

**Teacher in charge roles**

As you may be aware, we made two temporary, fixed-term appointments to our teacher in charge positions last year, with Mr Russell starting at Glaisdale in January 2020 and Mrs Walley joining Castleton in September 2020. Both positions had to be filled at speed due to unforeseen time constraints and it was therefore agreed with the school governors, Mr Russell and Mrs Walley at the time that the roles would be re-advertised in the spring term, in order for them to become permanent from September 2021.

Both Mr Russell and Mrs Walley will be encouraged to apply for the posts but we will also be opening the positions up to external candidates in order to allow for a full and fair recruitment process and to ensure we employ the best possible person for each of the roles.

**News from the Classes**

Happy New Year and welcome back to the **Acorns** who are joining us either in class or via the internet. It's been lovely to see you either way! 😊👋🏻

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we try to provide you with the best possible resources for as near-to-normal school experience as we can. We were not quite expecting what happened on Monday evening, and have also had a few teething problems along the way to deal with, but we think that by Monday we should be all sorted.

We are hoping to be able to invite you to some regular Zoom sessions where we can all interact as a class for a daily welcome and briefing as well as an assembly and story time. Details for these will be sent out to you soon.

This week's **Remote Learning** **Star of the week** is **Ella** for being really motivated and completing all of her set work and challenge activities to really high standard - Well done Ella 👏🏻🌟

This week's **Class Star of the Week** is **Emily** for being really cheery, positive and patient in class and for helping others (children and staff) - Well done Emily 👏🏻🌟

Please keep your photographs and videos coming in via the Class Dojo or Tapestry platforms, we love seeing them, especially if they are pictures of you doing something fun or exciting.

Best wishes*.*

*Mrs Barber & Mrs Scholey*

Happy New Year to all the **Oaks** and their families and it is great to have seen so many of you working hard at school or home this week.  Seeing your faces on zoom today was also a real treat.

I have been amazed at how quickly you all adapted to work being set on Dojo and thank you for being patient as I learn different ways of working from the other side of it too. As I have emailed, I will be setting a morning activity, a Maths and an English activity for the mornings (with a zoom at 9:30am) plus one other or two shorter afternoon activities (with a zoom story at 1pm).  This will hopefully help to give some structure and routine to the school working day plus keep the children interacting with each other.

This week’s **Remote Learning Star of the week** is **Dexter** for working out different ways to respond to the activities and completing the tasks daily.
This week’s **Class Star of the week** is **Scarlet** for helping me and the other children in class navigate Dojo and technical problems on the iPads.  You are an iPad superstar!

Keep up the good work children and parents.  Send me your snow photos as I haven't got any!

Take care.

*Mrs Walley*