

5th February 2021

Dear Parents,

We have almost reached the end of the first half term – just one more week to go. School will be closed Monday 15th – Friday 19th February.

It was sad to hear the news this week that **Captain Sir Tom** had passed away. He has been celebrated as a real-life hero and offered positivity and hope to the nation in our darkest hour. However, we mustn't forget the many heroes we are surrounded by each day who will never achieve such notoriety: the parent who patiently home-schools their child, the child who doesn't complain about missing out on seeing their friends, the grandparent who has learnt to use technology so they can keep in touch with their family, not to mention the critical key workers who are literally risking their lives on a daily basis to care for those in our communities.

Inside out day! There were a number of items of clothing worn inside out on Wednesday. It was an important message, to teach children that how we feel on the inside isn't always obvious from the outside. I hope you found the list of resources to support mental health useful. It was emailed on Monday if you missed it. It was lovely to see a wide array of activities being enjoyed on "no-screen Wednesday". There was baking, drawing, photography, lots of different types of exercise, game playing, puzzle playing, crafting, building....!

Staying active - While at home in lockdown, it is important that we encourage children to stay active to support their wellbeing and mental health. I know this can be hard with the combination of bad weather and darker evenings. Sustrans are running a national campaign called "Outside In", providing 4 weeks' worth of free indoors and outdoors activities relating to walking, cycling and staying active. It is very simple to take part. If you're interested, sign up to the newsletter from this link: <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/campaigns/outside-in> You will then be sent resources and activities with video instructions via email.

"Last One Standing" – The first round of this exciting, football-themed, fun, fundraiser begins on 13th February, so you must register no later than **Thursday 11th February** (not 12th as per email sent earlier) if you want to take part! One donation of £5 needed for 8 weeks' worth of entertainment!!

Fitness fundraiser! Save the date! There will be a lockdown fitness class at 7pm on 17th February. Details will be sent out next week.

Lower Traffic Neighbourhood – (LTN) I noticed again on Twitter that I am being quoted as actively supporting the LTN initiative. For the record, I have never expressed an opinion either way and not being a resident in the area, I don't believe I have the right to! As a Headteacher, I am all for sustainable travel to school to support our environment and help fitness. My own choices about using a bike are my own and not for public debate or to be used for or against LTN. I made it very clear in my letter last term that there are many reasons for a reduction in car use, quite possibly the main one being more parents working from home. The LTN debate has been heated and divisive and I will not be drawn into it or used to prove a point for either side.

With just one more week to go until the **half term holiday**, I must say I'm incredibly proud of all the work that is being submitted on both Tapestry and Google Classroom. It is not easy for families or the staff working in this way and we long for the day we can return to "normal". In the meantime keep up the great work!

And for a bit of light relief, you might want to take a look at this talented family of singers! Some of us can certainly relate to this song, "Totally Fixed Where We Are"!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYmSAMcwXA8&feature=youtu.be>

Have a lovely weekend

Kind regards,

Kate Baptiste
Headteacher