

29th January 2021

Dear Parents,

I'm sure that many of you will have been following the news this week and have picked up on the statement regarding **school closures**. It has been rare, since the start of the pandemic, that schools have been provided with much clarity or advance notice, but we are pleased that we now have at least some certainty about what will be happening in the coming weeks. The key announcements from parliament this week are as follows:

- The **earliest** schools might 'begin to re-open' will be Monday 8th March;
- There will be a plan/review set out on Monday 22nd February (the first day after the half-term holiday), with further updates;
- When the decision to return has been made, schools will get two weeks' notice of this.

Sadly, this means that we have at least four more school weeks of home-learning under the current arrangements. I know that this will be bitterly disappointing for many families and the children, but I hope that it provides some hope that there might be an end in sight, at least in terms of getting the children back into school.

We have also received clarification from the Department for Education (DfE) that schools would not be asked to open over half-term for children of critical workers. I have emailed parents who are critical workers with information regarding child-care provision at Walker Primary school.

Next week we will be marking "Inside Out" day on Wednesday. This is linked to children's mental health. On Wednesday afternoon we have designated the afternoon as a **no screen afternoon** and a range of activities will be suggested that do not require a screen – detox from your device!

"Last One Standing" – for the latest fantastic fundraising event from The Friends, look at the attachment! It's a must for the football fanatics amongst you, but you don't even have to like football to take part and you'll be in with the chance of winning £100! Your entry must be received by 10th February.

Racial Justice Sunday will be celebrated in church this weekend. We pray people will not be judged by their race but recognised as equal members of the Human race. I would encourage you to watch the video (which I have shared before), which illustrates the consequences of treating people unfairly based on their appearance <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dLAI78hluFc>

As the wife of a black man and with three mixed-race children I have an insight into racism that I would never have otherwise believed or understood as a white woman raised on the Wirral! The staff have attended "unconscious bias" training and it was an eye-opener in terms of recognising our own subconscious stereotypes. I would encourage everyone to challenge their own stereotypes and pray for unity. Each of us is a unique individual created and loved by God and it is our responsibility to teach this to our children.

Have a lovely weekend

Kind regards,

Kate Baptiste
Headteacher