

8<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear parents and carers,

It is hard to believe that we are almost approaching a year since our first experience of school closures and reflecting on how much has changed in that time is almost incomprehensible. We wanted to take the time to write to you all to say thank you for your support and hard work during this time. Thank you for the superb job you are doing, whether that is as a key worker or supporting your family through remote learning, neither of which is easy!

Here at school, we do understand the pressures you must be under and we know that we are all trying to do the best job that we can in the circumstances. We want to highlight the wonderful things that are happening every day because we all need a reminder of just how great our children at Tanners Brook are:

- Over 90% of children are engaging in their learning at school or at home. Despite the many challenges this lockdown has posed, you remain active in encouraging your child to work hard - thank you.
- Our children in school and at home are joining Teams meetings together, aiming to keep valuable friendships going.
- The quality of work being produced in school and at home is wonderful. This is being displayed in school and is shared during the weekly celebration meetings. We are very proud of this!
- Despite a very steep learning curve, we are successfully using a range of communications platforms that we had never used before. It is amazing how wonderfully our children and adults have adapted to this and we are impressed with just how well everyone is coping.
- We have been overwhelmed with the fantastic phone calls taking place every day. It has been lovely to talk to parents and children about their learning as well as having the time to check in with how everyone is managing.

We also want to emphasise some key points that need to be at the forefront of our minds as we continue this journey together:

- Remember to try your best and this in turn will support your child in trying their best too. Know that 'good' is good enough.
- Recognise that learning is incredibly important, but most of you are not trained teaching professionals. We are here to support this every step of the way.
- Place your child's health and wellbeing at the forefront of all you do - enjoy the extra time of being together as a family, try not to stress and above all, be kind to yourselves.
- Take care of yourself - happy adults support happy children. You are important and what you do is important.
- Celebrate when things go well and move on when they do not.
- Screen breaks are essential.

- If it helps, timetable in learning alongside your child. This can really help motivate them, knowing that they have decided what comes next. Do not forget to plan in breaks!
- Exercise is vital for the whole family.
- Know that we will do our utmost, when your child returns to school, to get back to a new 'normal'.

The NHS have created a 'Family Wellbeing Pack' that we are sending alongside this letter. This includes a range of services and advice on maintaining healthy wellbeing during Covid-19 so might be a useful resource to offer further support.

As always, we are here to support you. If you have any needs or require support with managing remote or in school learning, please get in touch with us. When we look back on this time in future years, we want to remember some good times so let's continue to stay positive together.

Take care, keep well and stay safe,

*From all of us at Tanners Brook Primary School*