



Dear Parents and Carers

I can hardly believe we are nearly at the end of half term, having spent only one 2021 day all in school. I am so impressed with the way the children are engaging at home with remote learning and I know how much effort parents are putting in to making it work! (That said, you might be surprised just how independent some of our pupils can be when in a class of 30 without a parent to hand... you aren't being mean if you remind them to use **the 5 Worker Bees**. When working at home the 'board' can be the slides or other uploads on Google Classroom and asking the boss can be asking you or emailing the teacher to ask for help.)

It has been great to hear about our children really getting stuck into their **reading** at home. Above all else, keeping or making a regular reading habit is key to successful later learning and will be invaluable throughout their whole lives as well as when we are back in school and trying to consolidate learning done at home. I would like to say a special thank you to Janie Percy-Smith who has been running our **mobile library** this half term, making sure that children have fresh reading material. She says: *It has been lovely to chat to so many children and parents while out delivering library books. However, after half term children who are in school can come themselves to the library to change their library books on Tuesday or Wednesday. For those children who are learning at home, there will be boxes of library books in the main entrance and children are welcome to come and exchange their books there. Please remember to return library books you have at home. It may well be that we are back in school after a fortnight, but if you are isolating due to symptoms, contact tracing, a positive test or shielding instructions then we can still arrange to drop books off to you – please let us know.*



To celebrate our love of reading we will be joining in with **World Book Day** on the 4th March this year. We aim to include a special assembly, with a chance to show off costumes, props and accessories. There will be fun reading-themed activities set by the teachers and chances to talk about the books, characters and genres we love. For those of you (young and old) who dread dress-up days it is fine to make something that represents a book or character, gather together some accessories to give clues or draw a picture instead. Alternatively there are some ideas [here](#) and [here](#). (Definitely do not feel pressurised into buying or sewing something, please!)

This week has been **Internet Safety Week** and we marked the occasion by dedicating Tuesday's lessons to keeping safe online. We couldn't do our usual drama activities in the hall to really explore the subject, so used **One Day Creative's** online platform to let the children join in from home instead. I hope they spoke to you about what they were learning, as good, open communication with the adults who look after them is key to kids being safe online and behaving appropriately themselves. Childnet.com have produced this [newsletter](#) about supporting young people online. There is also a good deal of information on our website [e-safety page](#) that may be useful to you. Thank you to everyone who joined in with our online **assembly** this morning. Thanks also to School Council who stayed online afterwards for our first **virtual School Council** meeting! They have some great ideas – including making a school film! **They would like children to take and send in two (landscape) photos... one showing what they love about home learning and the other showing the less fun side to it. They will collect them in the first week back and make a film from them with music in the background (children can suggest suitable tracks.)**



