



Belmont Primary School Newsletter January 29th 2021



Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to the end of another week and the start of the weekend!

Making Contact

Over the past few weeks, we have made sure we attempt to make telephone contact with you all, something which we hope you have found useful. However, as time goes by, we will no longer be doing this unless we have a specific reason to discuss anything with you. There are different reasons for this which include the fact that most of you are coping really well with the challenges of supporting children with their work at home; furthermore, teachers are now looking to extend our 'offer' by making recordings to support teaching remotely. To do this takes time and we feel that, as beneficial as the telephone conversations have been, the time taken to facilitate them can be put to developing our teaching resources. Of course, you can still make contact with us and we would suggest contacting the teacher in the first instance through the Teams 'chat' facility.

February Half Term

You may recall that during Easter and May half term 2020, school remained open for some children. This will not be the case during February half term, something schools had confirmed earlier this week. As such, the school will be closed to children during the February half term break.

Virtual Meetings

Class teachers are keen to start 'virtual' meetings with children in their class through the Teams video meeting facility. We feel this provides a conduit for children to be able to see and hear one another (and also for us to see and hear the children too!). This will, in the first instance, be for Key Stages One and Two but this will be extended. A 'protocol' information letter has been sent on the ParentPay platform so please do check this through.

Laptops

I am sure that you will have read the issues facing many in relation to access to appropriate technology, without which remote learning becomes increasingly challenging. We have distributed a number of devices provided by the DfE. However, this week Castlegate Lights in Stokesley purchased and donated five additional laptops for us to share with those in need. Many thanks to Mr and Mrs Boal for this very kind gesture and, although they requested no publicity, I will share their website with you!
<https://www.castlegatelights.co.uk/>

The Burning Question....!

We all received a degree of clarity, as far as can be given at this point, as to the earliest point schools can fully reopen (not simply 'reopen' as much of the media reports; I know of no school which is closed!). Schools actually receive such information at exactly the same time as the rest of the nation so I am sure we all await announcements due to be made on February 22nd.

As always, and as cannot be overstated, many thanks again to you all (and I include children, parents, carers and staff) for all of your support, effort, energy, understanding and endeavour during these times. Remember, the weekend is all about having a break at the present time, certainly from school work, so please do try to have an enjoyable and restful couple of days.

Yours Sincerely

Mr C Gibson