



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

When we are still in the middle of a global pandemic, the weather is atrocious and the days are dark, it is hard to remain cheerful and positive. For parents at home trying to work as well as support their children's learning, the days can seem very long and difficult; they imagine that their children being in Key Worker Club would be easier. For Key Worker parents, the picture is a little different; in many cases, the jobs they do are highly stressful, they feel guilty that their children have to be away from them in school and they wish they could stay safely at home. Some parents - especially the parents of the younger children - feel overburdened by the amount of work posted up on Teams and are afraid that their children will fall behind. They imagine that they are the only ones who aren't coping when, in fact, they are far from alone. Remember that home is not usually associated with schoolwork - that is for school - and the children are missing their friends and teachers. The most important thing to do is to prioritise: choose your moments for work, don't feel you have to do it all, enjoy your time together and get outside for some exercise whenever the weather allows. There is plenty of learning to be done out there!

On the subject of exercise, you may be aware of the Tokyo Challenge that Miss Keegan has posted up on Teams. This is to encourage everyone to get exercising but is also a staff v. children competition. Already, Year 5 and Year 6 are well in the lead so we all need to get active!

One or two more learning resources may be coming the way of Years 5, 3 and 2 over the next couple of days. The new Blazer magazine has now been printed and this too will be delivered to everyone, either to your door, through the post or - if your child is in KG or attends KWC - sent home with your child. Looking at its pages reminds me of all the wonderful learning and fun we experienced in school together last term - and will be able to enjoy again very soon. Meanwhile, we must all make the best of things, support each other and persevere with remote learning. And remote learning can be productive and fun: there have been some superb pieces of work done at home and marvellous projects undertaken - keep those photos coming in to pmarketing@berkhampsteadschool.co.uk! Mrs Bareham has been encouraging the children to enter a national competition to design a piece of art showing how they would like Planet Earth to look in the future; you can see some of the fantastic entries for this on this newsletter.

There will be no Holiday Club or Key Worker Club running over half term; because we are expecting to return to school after half term, all the buildings will be undergoing a thorough deep clean.

I remember Mr Cross's first assembly of term with its chart of positive things to do each day; one of the things was 'Make a list of things to be grateful for'. Well, here goes: the sun has come out, the rain is drying up and the world looks clean and bright. Storm Christoph has finally subsided and my house and fence are still standing. There are already some tiny little snowdrops growing in my garden. I have a family and friends to love and care for. I am alive and well.

Maybe life isn't so bad after all!

Gill

Gill Agg
Deputy Head



FRIDAY 22TH JANUARY
SPRING TERM





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ART COMPETITION

We are very impressed with the standard of artwork being submitted for the Creative Earth competition. Here is a selection of entries so far from Years 2-6, the deadline is 28th January.

