

I cannot quite believe we are already approaching half term! Well done to all parents and carers who are supporting children at home with their learning: you have definitely earned a week off and some much-needed time away from screens! I have nothing but admiration for the way that you are managing to stay as sane as possible whilst multitasking on a scale which we have never known before!

We know we have a large number of parents who are still undertaking vital roles on a daily basis in a bid to beat the virus or keep key services ticking over and I am sure that I speak on behalf of our whole school community when I say a big thank you.

We enjoyed taking part in a range of activities last week as part of Children's Mental Health Week and I'd like to say a big thank you to Mrs Clarke, our Learning Mentor, who organized the activities in school and those that were posted as home learning tasks. Some children have also been out and about in the community this week leaving little tokens of positivity around the Blagreaves area.



In school, we continue to work towards 8th March in the hope that we will be able to open to all children then—the suggestion is that this will very much depend on the local rates and we must all continue to do what we can to follow the rules in place to drive down the R rate over the next few weeks.

Stay safe.  
*Mrs Hill*

## Devices and Connectivity

Our delivery of government laptops arrived in school on 4th January and we quickly distributed these to children who were struggling to engage with our remote learning. We also handed out existing school laptops and purchased a further bank of 8 which have now also been distributed to Gayton children. It's great that every single child in school is now able to access learning at home!

We also received an overwhelmingly generous donation of a further 10 laptops from Newmount Methodist Church, who collected donations from their regular congregation at the start of January. We are, as you can imagine, extremely grateful for their support and will be issuing these laptops as soon as we can to support families who are sharing devices or relying on mobile phones to access teams, which can be tricky.

Several families signed up to receive a BT Wi-Fi voucher to enable them to connect free to their BT hotspots. We still have some of these left, along with some SIM cards with 30MB of free data which can be used in a mobile phone or tablet. If either of these options would help you and your family to access the internet more readily, please get in touch with school and we'll arrange getting one to you.



## Staffing Update



We will be losing Mrs Hans from our team on Friday 12th February. Mrs Hans joined us while she was completing her Teaching Assistant qualification and was then appointed to join the team permanently in 2018. We wish her all the best in her new ventures.

Mrs Thorman will be supporting Mrs Aujla with the Class 6 bubble in school after half term until lockdown ends. We will update you further when we have news of Mrs Hans' replacement.

## Reviewing Remote Learning

We continually review our remote learning offer in response to conversations with parents and children during our weekly chats. Earlier in the term, we asked the children to complete a quick online questionnaire to see if there were any issues they were having that we could address. A third of our school community (115) responded to the questionnaire and the results are below.

### **Is there anything you find difficult on Teams?**

No—85

Technical issues— 18 (class teachers were able to resolve these when making weekly contact)

Uploading images—6

Would prefer documents in Word—4

Can't print—2

### **What device(s) do you use to access Teams?**

PC/Desktop—33

Laptop—55

Tablet—36

Mobile phone—49

Xbox/Playstation—1

### **Do you share your device with anyone else?**

Yes—37

No—52

Sometimes—26



## Facebook

We sent out messages at the end of January inviting you to like our new Facebook page. If you haven't already, please like our new page to follow school news and useful links to parents - we hope this will further enhance communication between home and school, particularly during this lockdown. We started off with some great ideas to support Children's Mental Health Week and will continue to share links to activities and information which you may find useful.



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