

SENT VIA EMAIL 27.1.21

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been so lovely to see so many of you today on the different live sessions, whether it be a virtual coffee morning, bingo, quiz or a story time. It is very heart-warming to see the smiles on the children's faces when they see their friends and teachers. It was great to hear from parents at the coffee morning about what would support parents even further but mainly just to have a chat about how we are all feeling in this new world we are all navigating.

As we heard today that schools will hopefully be able to open again fully from the beginning of March, it is important now more than ever that we keep connected and continue to find ways to engage and support one another over the coming weeks.

#### **Prime Minister Update**

Prime Minister Boris Johnson says he hopes schools in England can reopen from Monday, March 8. In an announcement in the House of Commons this afternoon, he said the hope of reopening immediately after half-term would not be possible.

He said he hoped there would be enough immunity from the vaccination project to reopen schools from March 8 and that the roadmap for leaving lockdown, which will include the plan to reopen schools, will be published in the week of February 22.

#### **February Half Term**

I wanted to write to you to confirm the arrangements for the upcoming half term break. There has been much speculation in the media regarding the arrangements for half term and yesterday we received confirmation from The Department for Education of what these arrangements will be.

**Schools will close as usual over February half-term** and are not expected to remain open to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers during that week.

I wanted to inform you of this as soon as possible as I am aware that this may have implications for those of you who have currently taken up a school place. I am hoping that by getting this information to you promptly, that you will be able to now plan for this.

#### **Free School Meal Vouchers**

In addition to this, families who are currently eligible for free school meals will not receive lunch parcels or vouchers from school during the February half-term. There is wider government support in place to support families and children outside of term-time. If you would like more information regarding this then please do contact the school office.

I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank you for your support and engagement with the remote learning offer for children who are not currently on site. Teachers continue to be on hand to support you and we will always strive to help in any way that we can. We continue to recognise the different situations of individual families at this time and we applaud your efforts. Remember to be kind to yourselves, to not compare yourself to others and to recognise your successes!

All of the staff here at ASM send you our best wishes and we are very much looking forward to the day when we can safely see you all again.

Best wishes,

Mrs Edwards  
Head of Academy