

12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

This has been a very different half term. I cannot believe it has only been six weeks. Thank you for all your hard work, for supporting your children and completing remote learning at home. We all understand how difficult it has been for many of you.

I would also like to thank all those parent/carers that have not taken advantage of being classed as a critical worker and only sending their children into school when really necessary. Working together in this way will have stopped some transmission of the virus and am sure will have saved lives. Thank you.

Everyone at both schools will be listening to Boris Johnson's route out of lockdown that is due to be announced in the near future. We are hoping that all children will return to school very soon.

### **Certificates**

Each week teachers are identifying children that are working really hard in school and at home. I am really enjoying my Friday afternoon visits around Deepcar and Stocksbridge handing out certificates to remote learners. It has been fantastic to touch base with so many families and catch up with your children albeit at a social distance! (For reference, all certificates are wiped with anti-bacterial spray and I use hand sanitiser between each house visit.)

### **Lexia**

After monitoring usage of Lexia only 50% of pupils with a license have accessed the program in the last three weeks. Therefore we will be changing access to different children. For parent/carers who have already contacted school to discuss access issues, your child will still have access but usage will have to be monitored. I hope everyone understands that we simply cannot waste the huge amount of money the system has cost for it not to be used.

If you need a device to access online learning please do contact school. If you have two children sharing one device also contact school as we may be able to offer another. These will be prioritised to children identified as Pupil Premium in the first instance.

The Local Authority have been very quick to respond to school's needs and have allocated a few more laptops to Deepcar St John's.



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where the individual  
matters

### **Free School Meal Vouchers**

For families on benefits based free school meals the Local Authority have issued letters direct to yourselves about vouchers redeemable for the February half term. Please contact the school offices if this is not the case. You can also contact the Sheffield City Council Helpline on 0114 2734567, option 4, then option 3.

### **Contract Tracing during February Half Term**

For children that attend school the week ending 12 February 2021; if your child develops symptoms up to 48 hours after finishing on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February and receives a positive PCR test you will need to contact school at [enquiries@royd.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@royd.sheffield.sch.uk) or [enquiries@deepcar-st-johns.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@deepcar-st-johns.sch.uk) and please ensure that you email myself at [ljones@royd.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:ljones@royd.sheffield.sch.uk). School staff are expected to complete contract tracing during the half term. Staff may be using their personal telephones and it may not display a caller ID.

### **Parents Evening**

Parents evening at Deepcar St John's will take place, via telephone, week commencing Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021. I will write to you early next half term to confirm dates.

Royd parents evening will be later on in March.

The schools are investigating a system for parent/carers that will allow video conferencing for future parents evening and I will get in touch with more details in the future.

### **Bears of Sheffield**

You may remember that last year we were very fortunate to receive one of the 'Bears of Sheffield'. This is a joint project between both schools and linked to the Children's Hospital Charity as part of their fundraising campaign. We will be completing some fundraising events next half term across both schools to fund the project and raise vital funds for this charity.

We are asking parent/carers to talk to their child at home during half term about an idea on how we can decorate the bear. The photo below shows the shape of it. You may want to draw a large version and draw on it or write the ideas in words. These need to be returned back to school via email or hard copy on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021.

After half term, we will ask the children across both schools to discuss and decide on the best design. We look forward to all the children's fabulous ideas.



Royd Nursery Infant School,  
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☐ [www.roydnurseryinfants.co.uk](http://www.roydnurseryinfants.co.uk)  
Executive Head: Miss Louise Jones  
Assistant Head: Mr Sean Sly  
Chair of Governors: Mr Scott Mell



Deepcar St. John's C of E Junior School,  
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It will be a strange half term where you are limited in what you can do. We hope you all have a great week and the weather changes to allow us more options.

Thank you for all your positive comments and support during a very busy and stressful half term. Let us all look to a more positive time coming up to Easter that is less like Groundhog day and hopefully with less restrictions.

Take care

Yours sincerely

Louise Jones  
Executive Head Teacher



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