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Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you and your families are keeping well.

This lockdown feels so much more difficult for many people. I appreciate how hard it is for everyone to be cooped up indoors at this time of year and whilst we have received a lot of positive comments about the home-learning, we are aware of the amount of screen time this all entails. From next week we will have an afternoon a week that is free from screens for the children to do something that they enjoy. Next week our screen-free afternoon is Wednesday. Children do not need to record anything but if they wish, they can show anything they have made or talk about what they did in the Thursday morning Zoom.

We will continue to monitor and assess our home-learning provision but will have a screen-free afternoon once a week from now on.

COVID Testing in Primary Schools

In the media this week, there has been much discussion about COVID testing in both secondary schools and primary schools. In primary schools, the tests are for staff only. Up to one in three people who have the virus have no symptoms so could be spreading the disease unknowingly. Therefore, the Department for Education are providing Lateral Flow Tests for all staff working in primary schools. These tests will be carried out twice weekly at home so that any members of staff who may be carrying the virus can be identified and asked to isolate. Staff can opt out but testing is encouraged to break the chains of transmission. Tests at our school will begin the week beginning Monday, February 1st. I will update you with further details nearer the time.

There is light at the end of the tunnel. With these tests now available in primary school and the roll out of the vaccination programme, we are moving closer to the normality we all crave.

Have a good weekend.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Al Higgins'.

Alison Higgins

