



ROBERT MELLORS PRIMARY ACADEMY

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Dear parents/carers,

I can't believe that we are nearly at the half term holiday. This means that the majority of children have been learning at home for 6 weeks. I imagine that for some of you it has felt like a real slog? However, we have been so pleased with how our blended-learning is going. Children in school and at home have been accessing high quality learning opportunities and the outcomes are positive. We are pleased to be seeing so much learning being done at home – and we know that this isn't an easy process for anyone. We recognise that home learning can be a stressful experience for many of you and your children, especially where you are having to juggle learning for more than one child and your own work.

I want to remind you that all of the school staff are alongside you every step of the way – we are all readily available to offer support and guidance or even just a sympathetic ear whenever it is needed.

Make a Difference awards

Each week, children in school and at home have been nominated for Make a Difference awards. These children have been rewarded with certificates for demonstrating our school Make a Difference values. We have been pleased to receive nominations from family members which have enhanced our weekly celebrations.

Half term holiday & INSET day

Next week is half term week – and Monday 22nd February is an INSET day as was scheduled at the start of the school year. Staff are accessing annual health and safety training on this day. This means that no learning will be provided for this period. Daily learning will be back on Seesaw from Tuesday 23rd February.

Lateral Flow Testing for staff

Over the past couple of weeks, the national programme of testing primary school staff has been rolled out. Staff at RMPA are taking part in this and taking weekly Lateral Flow Tests at home. The purpose of these tests is to identify any asymptomatic cases and isolate as necessary. There are no plans to test primary-age children.

Devices for home learning

We have received our DfE devices – laptops and tablets, many of which have been distributed to our RMPA families to assist with home learning. We still have a number of devices left, including some which have been kindly donated by Argos in Arnold Sainsburys, and some which our own families have passed on. If you feel that your child would benefit from borrowing one of these laptops or tablets, please contact the school office. We also have sim cards with free data on them to give out which can be used in phones, laptops or tablets to help your children to access their learning activities and send it back to their teachers.

Live meet-ups

We have been working hard, alongside the Redhill Trust, to put in place safe means of providing sessions for children and teachers to 'meet' remotely. These sessions will have started this week – class teachers have been developing their IT skills to host these meetings in a way which will keep all of the children (and themselves) safe. If you haven't



already done so, please follow this [link](#) to our Acceptable Use Policy and complete form embedded within the policy to give permission for your child to take part in these sessions if they wish to do so.

Like you, we are waiting for further announcements by the Prime Minister regarding the full re-opening of schools. We know that this won't be before March 8th, but we hope that we will be able to welcome all of your children back to school either from that date, or very soon thereafter. Once the announcement has been made, we will then be required to revisit our Risk Assessment. We will update you with any information that you will need in relation to this once it is completed.

In the meantime, I hope that you are able to have a restful half term break. It will be quite a different type of holiday with few opportunities to get out and about for anything other than local walks. Below are links to some activities which might help entertain the children next week.

Don't forget to check your child's Seesaw account for information about e-reading books that are available.

Olaf Falafel Art Club	Virtual visits to Chester Zoo	Story activities – British Library	Educational activities
Draw with Rob	Museum tours for kids	Edinburgh Zoo – animal cams	RSPB – Signs of Spring activity
Dinosaur activities – Natural History Museum	Eureka museum - activities	Monterey Bay Aquarium - cams	NASA at Home

Sending my warmest regards to you all.

Mrs Essex

