



The William Ransom Primary School

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Information from Mrs Driver

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Dear Parents

Those of you who know me well, know of my love for musical theatre and not being able to go to the theatre for over a year has been dreadful. Music is a healer and is a way to bring us all together. This weekend is Musicals Weekend on Radio 2 and I for one, can't wait! I always turn to a musical when I need a 'pick me up' and follow the words from *Wicked* 'It's time to trust my instincts, close my eyes and leap' and the last three weeks we have all had to trust our instincts to make the right decisions!

News coming from the Government this week does say that we will not be returning to full schooling after half term which is what we all wished for, but hopefully we will see some kind of a return from March 8th. I have a horrible feeling it will be a staggered return of some kind, whether that means certain year groups or a week on, week off for everyone, who knows? Whatever we are faced with, we will make work! A spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down!

You may have noticed that I am named as a co-teacher on all the classes. This allows me access to all the classes so that I can see the work that is set and also the work that is submitted. I have to say that I am constantly blown away by the amazing work some of your children are producing. I thought the Year 5/6 history was really interesting, where you are looking at comparing film posters from the past with those of today, and I found the Year 1 history on the pioneers of flight fascinating. I am very impressed with how the majority of children are responding to home learning and interacting well with their teachers. However, it is important to remember that we are not asking you to replicate a school day. Ideally we would see children doing some Maths & English every day and some PE and foundation subjects as often as possible. But we understand the challenges some of you are facing and that you can't follow a strict timetable due to your own work commitments and that is absolutely fine! Education is cyclical and many of the concepts your children are covering now will be covered again and raised slightly when they return to school. Children don't learn in a nice straight upwards trajectory, they ascend, they plateau, sometimes they take a dip and they all do it at different times. Don't worry. The teachers will pick the learning up from wherever the children have got to! And remember this period of lockdown won't go on forever! In the words of *Les Miserables* - 'Even the darkest night will end and the sun will rise!'

My greatest concern at the moment is the amount of time some of the children are spending in front of a screen, and we are not helping with all this remote learning. Please ensure that

children spend some time on physical exercise every day, even if it just a run around the garden! I know some schools are designating one afternoon a week a 'screen free' time. I love that idea but you all have different timetables and would all want a different time. Therefore why not choose a time to suit your family and switch off all devices, including phones, iPads, PCs, tablets, whatever it is you are using, and do something different all together or on your own. Read a book, play a game. Enjoy the silence and time away from that blue light emitted by a screen which is known to damage retinas. And remember screens should be switched off at least 45 minutes before bedtime. In *Seussical the Musical* the Cat in the Hat says 'Tell yourself how lucky you are!'

Next week is Child Mental Health Awareness week and we are very conscious of this. All of our children are experiencing a very different world at the moment and we are eager to make this as positive for them as possible. Please try to find sometime next week to do something you love doing that will be good for your child's mental health. Tweet a picture so that we can build up a montage of us celebrating Child Mental Health Awareness week. Take a leaf out of *The Sound of Music*, 'When the dog bites, when the bee stings, when I'm feeling sad, I simply remember my favourite things and then I don't feel so bad!'

So I am going to wallow in a weekend of Musical Theatre and try not to think about the line in *Les Miserables* - At the end of the day, you're another day older!

Have a lovely weekend and stay safe.

Kind regards

Mary Driver

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