



Cossington C.E. Primary School

'Care, Significance, Purpose'

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Dear Parents,

School Update – 28/01/21.

I am sure by now that you are all aware of the Prime Minister's announcements this week that schools will not be open any sooner than 8th March. I am sure this has left many of you disappointed and frustrated that the children must continue to be educated remotely for longer than you had hoped. I want to reassure you that all of us at Cossington School share in this disappointment as there is nothing we want more than the children to be back learning in their classrooms with their friends. I do, however, understand the Government's thinking at this time with such high COVID related cases and deaths still being reported on a daily basis.

With this in mind I wanted to write to you to say how well our whole school community is doing to keep learning going at this difficult time. Each day we keep a register of the children on the live zoom lessons and I have been so pleased with the high attendance. I know the teachers have been impressed by the regular work that you are uploading to us via Seesaw and I feel sure that all the children are doing their best at home with the fabulous support of all you parents.

If you need some support...

As I have said to you in previous communications, we are here to help you where we can. Unfortunately, we cannot have the children in school but we can help in the following ways:

1. If you are having difficulties with technology, we can provide support for this and have school equipment that can be delivered to you when needed.
2. If children are struggling with learning, teachers are happy to talk to them at the end of zoom lessons to support them and encourage them. We are also happy to call you and talk through strategies and ways you can support.
3. If you are facing financial challenges, then there are some supports that we can direct you to and assist you in applications. This includes a local authority 'Winter COVID' grant or support in applying for free school meals.
4. I am in school every day and am happy to discuss any of the above or anything not covered above. Please do call or email and me or one of our team will get back to you.

Half Term and Inset Day

A quick reminder that the week beginning 15th February is the half term holiday and we are closed as usual during this time. We also will be closed on Friday, 12th February for the rearranged inset day. On this day, all staff are receiving vital first aid training and so we will be closed to all children and there will be no formal lessons online.

Routes to Resilience

As you will be aware, in school we do not just focus on academic subjects and work on many other vital skills that help shape well rounded children and complement the day to day things they learn from you, as parents at home. Last year, we introduced the children to the 'Routes to Resilience' programme and started teaching them about character muscles that would help them in school and beyond. We use these character muscles regularly in school and have them displayed in each classroom to help children select which character muscles they need to be using for different tasks.

The character muscles we focus on in school are...

1. Independence
2. Perseverance
3. Empathy and Compassion
4. Humility and Gratitude
5. Concentration
6. Curiosity
7. Managing Impulsivity
8. Enthusiasm
9. Co-operation
10. Courage and Risk Taking
11. Confidence

At this challenging time, we have decided that it is more important than ever that children are able to display character muscles and use them in their learning and play at home. To help with this, we are going to dedicate the final week of this half term to learning again about the character muscles and we will be setting the children challenges through the week linked to these character muscles in place of normal afternoon lessons.

Our character muscle week will start on **8th February**. During the week the children will complete English and Maths sessions in the morning as usual. However, the afternoons will be dedicated to building character muscles. On **Monday 8th February at 1:30 p.m.** the afternoon class zoom sessions will be replaced with a whole school zoom assembly to kick start the week. The invites with the code will be sent out to you next Friday. The afternoon sessions for the rest of the week will be run by the class teachers in the usual way but children will be set challenges linked to the character muscles. Across the week we will be asking you to send in videos and pictures of their efforts and we would like to put together one of our whole school videos to celebrate all we achieve that week. I really hope this will be a positive and fun way to end the half term and a way we can all come together remotely.

And finally...

I hope you all keep well and stay safe until the next time we can see you all in person. Keep up the great effort home learning and we will see you soon.

Yours faithfully,

Matt Yandell.
Head Teacher.