

# Newsletter– February 2021

After a very different return to school after the Christmas break, with the additional added difficulty of ongoing heating problems, we have managed to continue to work together to ensure that learning has continued for all of our children, amending and improving systems along the way. We have now reached half-term and would like to thank you all for your support and cooperation, and wish you a very restful half-term break with your family. There will be no online work provided for the children during the half term break, but this will continue again from Monday 22nd February when the new half term starts.

## Live Lessons on Teams

Thank you for your feedback on our 'Live Teams' sessions over the past two weeks, the overwhelming majority of comments have been extremely positive and we are thrilled to see that engagement in learning, across all year groups, has increased significantly since the live sessions began.



## Support with devices

We have shared on previous correspondences, that if anyone is struggling with not being able to access online learning then please get in touch with school. We have been able to loan many devices to families to support pupils with online learning, so if you haven't already, please let us know if you require support.



## Heating Update

As you all know, we have had a significant heating problems since December. After much investigation, I shared with you that the school now requires an entire new heating system to be installed, which as you can imagine is a very big and expensive job. In consultation with the Diocese, the surveyor has already drawn up the plans and sourced the workforce to carry out this job. As I have shared with you since the beginning of this issue, this situation is completely out of our hands, as are the timescales, but we are very grateful that we can now go forward and have a brand new heating system installed. This work is due to start, hopefully next week.

Our thanks go to St. Bede's who have continued to offer us space within their site to continue the education of vulnerable and key worker children. As the heating will certainly not be replaced by the time half term is over, the current arrangements at St. Bede's will continue, as they are now, after half term. As soon as there are any updates on the heating, I will share them with you.



# Lent

This year, the season of Lent begins on **Wednesday 17th February**, during the half term break. It is a time of reflection and preparation to remember all that Jesus did for us.

CAFOD this year are raising money for clean and safe drinking water and have a campaign during Lent, called Walk for Water. During lockdown, with the current restrictions in place, we know that lots of our families have added daily walks to their family routines. As a school we invite children and their families to join in with the Walk for Water campaign, and during Lent to think of those who have no safe and clean water to drink. We understand that this is a tricky time financially for many members of our own school family, so there is **no expectation that you fundraise and give money to this cause**, your prayers and thoughts mean such a lot too. If anyone does wish to donate to the CAFOD 'Walk for Water Campaign' during Lent, then donations can be made via ParentPay.

We have also uploaded a calendar on the school website that can be used to help us to focus and journey towards Easter. You can [click here to see the calendar](#) or you can find it in the news section on the school website.

## Our Wonderful Children

To all of our wonderful children, we just wanted to let you know that we are so proud of each and every one of you. You have adapted to the new ways of working and have shown resilience and stamina, keeping us smiling and doing your best each day. We hope that you enjoy a well deserved rest during the half term break next week and we can't wait until we can all be back together safely again!



Special thanks also goes to our very hardworking staff team, parents and to all members of our school community, who have once again pulled together and made the very best of the current situation we are in.

Mrs Ashton