



Senacre Wood Primary School

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1st February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I would like to say a huge thank you for supporting your child through their learning on Seesaw. Home-schooling is a hard task and we understand the juggle which you are facing. It is relentless, but we greatly appreciate everything you are doing to support your child's education whilst they are not with us.

Last week there were some key announcements from the Government. They were as follows:

- The **earliest schools might 'begin to re-open'** will be Monday 8th March, which is the start of the third school week after the half-term holiday;
- There will be a plan/review set out on Monday 22nd February (the first day after the half-term holiday), with further updates;
- When the decision to return has been made, the government has said that schools will get two weeks' notice of this- we hope this remains the case in order for us to give you as much notice as possible.

Sadly, this means that we have at least four more school weeks of home-learning under the current arrangements. I know that this will be bitterly disappointing for many families and children, as it is for school staff, but I hope that it provides some hope that there might be an end in sight, at least in terms of getting the children back into school.

We also received clarification from the Department for Education (DfE) last week that schools would not be asked to open over half-term for children of critical workers, as was the case in the first lock-down.

Finally, this will be my last update letter for a while, as I start my maternity leave on Friday. Miss Comerford will be Acting Head from the 8th February. She will be ably supported by two Acting Assistant Heads and existing members of the Senior Leadership Team, Mrs Baksh and Mrs McKenzie, alongside an outstanding school staff, who always have your child's best interest at the heart of everything they do.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support throughout this extraordinary situation. I never imagined I would be going on maternity leave in the middle of another lockdown. However, I know that the Senacre Wood school community will continue to look out for one another and I hope, that on my return, life will be slowly returning to some kind of normal. When I have news to share of my new arrival, I will make sure you are kept informed! But for now, please take care and keep safe.

Kind regards,

Mrs Sweeney

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