Towers Times

NEWSLETTER 8TH JANUARY 2021

Dear families,

Happy New Year to you all! This may not have been the start of the New Year we had hoped for and as the week has gone on and this new, new, new 'normal' begins to settle, we should take a moment to look back over the week and just think how wonderful each and everyone of you are! Whilst we continue to grapple with the effects of this virus, we would like to start with saying a huge thank you to all our parents and carers, who have engaged in remote learning. We have been so impressed with the work the children have been submitting/completing each day. More than ever, it is so important that we work together over the next few months to achieve the best possible outcomes for our children. We understand that families are not all the same and that families have different circumstances. Some of you may be feeling stressed, overwhelmed and under pressure by everything that is happening. This includes the work being sent home for your child. However, please try to be kind to yourselves and from our perspective we hope the following key points help;

1) This is again an unprecedented emergency situation impacting on the whole world. Be Kind to yourselves.
2) If you are trying to work from home alongside engage with learning, set a schedule that works for you – staff have lots of pre-recorded sessions to assist the children with their learning.
2) You are, and always have been, your child's primary educator but this is co-education if you need help with engagement speak with one of the team who can help - don't let things build up.

As you know we have set out a Remote learning package that can support you and your family, allowing you to adapt to suit your needs! With a lack of guidance, initally we put together timetables which now over recent days government have confirmed their expectations which we are pleased to say we are meeting and more!
The timetables are to provide you a guide to learning each day, as it provides what is expected of us as schools to deliver.

If you are working and seeing the Zoom sessions thinking," I just cant get my children to them all", this is fine… the morning and afternoon registration sessions are to support our vision of 'staying connected' even remotely as classes, but also to enable us to fulfil the safeguarding responsibilities we have. We want to see your child every day and if you can attend all sessions great but if you can't then we just ask that your child attends either at the morning or afternoon registration Zoom. If you are unable to attend due to illness or you have an appointment, just inform your teacher via our year group emails and we will keep in touch. If staff do not have notification they will call home just to check everything is ok – we just want to help and make sure you are safe.

Over the past few days, as we have adjusted again to a different way of working we have put together a Frequently Asked Questions document to help families. We will continue to update this and resend it every few weeks. But to start;

Q My child has got so much work to do, how are they supposed to read all 19 pages and then carry out all that writing?
A The work set is as expected of us in school, of replicating the classroom remotely the government state:
When teaching pupils remotely, we expect schools to: • set meaningful and ambitious work each day in an appropriate range of subjects • provide teaching that is equivalent in length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school.
Our answer – listen to and enjoy reading with each other, share that love of reading and come back to the writing later if you need too.

Please remember that school is here to help during these challenging times, please check our school website for outside agencies that can support you, alternatively contact the school offices.

To help our families

If during this pandemic your personal circumstances have changed, please review the attached **Free school meals application**, it is totally confidential and could be of great benefit to you and your child during these unprecedented times.
https://www.havering.gov.uk/info/20006/schools_and_education/431/school_support

The COVID Winter Grant Scheme is also in place if families report difficulties in accessing food or paying household bills. Access to this support is through the local authority and further information can be found here; https://www.dabd.org.uk/help-and-advice/help-with-money/havering-emergency-assistance-scheme

Our Time to Shine will return next week for our children but for this week we want to award it to you – our parents! You are doing more than your best! Thank you….

Please stay safe and look after each other,
Ms L.J Blurton and Mrs C Hurley Mr M J Dineen