



Ditton CE Junior School Newsletter – 11th February

I think it was the legendary **John Lennon** who wrote ‘Nobody told us there’d be days like these, strange days indeed’ - Just when we (parents and staff) had all battled through a whole school term of lockdown, we get the Beast from the East. I’ve been hugely proud of the way our **team in school** this week have been determined to try to get in. Overall, we only had to close Year 6 for one day due to lack of staffing. As I said on **Class Dojo**, in the old days we would have shuffled staff around to cope, and you are permitted to do that under CoViD, but we were keen to avoid mixing any year group bubbles and, in the end, we haven’t had to put staff with other year groups either.

We trust our **communication** has been satisfactory. I am really proud of the office team’s hard work, and Parentmail and Dojo have helped us give you more instant info. On **snowy days** the senior leadership team here, and other key staff, are in conversation from about 6 am to ensure we offer the best we can for the children of critical workers. Just to conclude this weather report, we thank you for afternoon **early pick-ups**. They are partly for you and children to be safe, they are not compulsory on snow days but they do allow us to release some staff who have furthest to travel. Those children we keep to 3.15 may well all be in the hall but we distance the small year group bubbles left in there, so no need to worry about that. Big thanks to the Site Team for tireless work to make the grounds safe too!



“To have life
and live it to the full.”



I said we would update you before the end of the week about **parent evenings**. We are still struggling to get the technology working in our favour; like the Infants we seem dogged with poor coverage and knotty challenges with hosters. However, we expect to get a separate update out to you all by Friday and our preferred week will be the **second week back**. As it will all be virtual we aim to offer slots across more days and across the day if possible. Don’t get used to that though as we couldn’t do it if we were all in school.



Our meeting with the Local Authority was very positive this week. They were very complimentary about how the team seems to be going **above and beyond** here at present. **Many of you** have had the same opinion in the last few months. Some have even praised myself and Miss Johnson’s part in that (shocking I know! But us two will take any praise we can get ha ha!) Generally I’ve found that any success I’ve had is based on building amazing teams, so we’ve been fortunate with this squad!

I wrote last week about our Christian ethos. I was saying the main change we plan is to use the bible verse John 10:10 **I have come that they may have life and live it to the full**. We want all the team and the children focused on exploring full lives. I also said that the **bible stories** we use to underpin our four key values of **Perseverance, Responsibility, Respect and Empathy** are changing. Once our Governing board are satisfied with this, I will publish a draft page on the website and ask for your comments too (and those of children).

