

Thursday 11th February 2021

Dear Morningside families,

I hope that you are all safe and well.

As we approach the half term break I wanted to write to you to say thank you for all of your support during this challenging time.

On Monday and Tuesday I went to class meetings and celebration assemblies in all year groups. I saw over 300 children who were learning at home and around 70 who are learning at school. Our attendance rates for both online and school learning are some of the highest in the borough.

Each and every child was involved in celebrating their classmates. Teachers and support staff explained how tricky choosing the award winners was as there was so much wonderful work. I am very lucky to have access to all of the Google documents and can see both the work and the comments that staff and children leave. I am delighted every day at how supportive and kind our children are to each other as well as with the quality and content of their work. This has been achieved by families and staff working in partnership. So much has changed for us all. The staff have been wonderful in adapting what they do and moving to teaching remotely. Each week they share what is working well and discuss ways to make their offer even better. Their enthusiasm and energy is amazing. The children have had to get used to very different ways of working and their families have had to support this and keep them motivated to learn. I can imagine that this is incredibly hard at times.

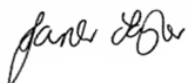
Everyone is getting on with doing the best that they can. This week I have seen so many smiles and we need to celebrate our very special school community.

I have only seen and heard negative stories about schools and learning in the press. At Morningside we strive to be positive. Soon we will all be back at school. A major focus of our work moving forwards will be oracy. The children need to find their voices again. They have been doing lots of reading and writing. They need to be with their friends, to socialise, to find their voices (after being "on mute" so many times), to develop their independence, explore their creativity, laugh, talk and have fun. The politicians are missing the point. We don't need a "recovery curriculum" or to worry about "catching up." We will be moving on from where we are now with lots of enthusiasm and positivity. The children have a bright and exciting future ahead of them. I cannot wait to welcome them all back to school.

We will continue to share wonderful work from home and school on Instagram, Twitter and on the school website. Please get in touch with us via the school office if there is anything we can support you with. I hope that you have a restful break over the half term away from the screens and enjoying some quality time with your children.

Take care and stay safe

Best wishes



Janet Taylor

For and on behalf of all of the staff at Morningside Primary School