

Weekly Word

8.1.2021

To all Parents/Carers,

Erm, I am not really sure where to start with what's happened over the last seven days! It's been busy, as you might expect, but there has been an odd sense of familiarity about it.

This time last week the staff and I were all preparing for a full school reopening on Tuesday. My own son, was preparing to go back to school on Monday. And then Monday at 8pm happened and we had to press the reset button and go again. I guess a good place to start would be a thank you. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we tried to unpick the steady stream of announcements from the Government and the DfE. Although it was not the news we had planned for, there was a sense that this might happen and the whole school community had to come together at a pivotal moment. Thank you for picking up the Remote Learning baton once more. We are fully aware of the difficulties around Remote Learning but please know that we do listen and we are trying to make it as best we possibly can under the circumstances.

Thank you to the children too. I have written a letter to them all saying as much but they have been amazing. It was great to see them on Teams for the Gold Book Assemblies and the teaching staff have been absolutely glowing about how hard they have tried with their learning this week.

And last but not least, thank you to all the teaching and non-teaching staff at Markeaton. I have told them anyway but this feels like a good place to do it as well. Despite their own worries about them and their families they have been incredible in the midst of a very challenging and worrying situation which seems to change every five minutes.

One last thing to announce is our purchase of Oxford Owls. At the moment we are using the free version which gives us access to a few texts for each book band but now, with the whole school subscription, your child will be able to access between 30 and 40 books per book band. This is a great addition to our school/remote learning library so keep an eye on your emails for further details.

That's it from me for this week. I hope you are all safe and well and manage to have a relaxing weekend.

Take care and best wishes,

Mr I. Johnson

