



12 February 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

Week 6 of Lockdown 2 ends and I'm sure I speak for us all in saying that we are pleased it is half term!!

Screen break

Our [Parent Bites](#) video this week is focused on Digital Detox and the need to get away from screens and focus on the moment and well being for a few days. Do try and get outside as a family over the next few days. The physical and mental benefits of a walk along the river or through the woods or a cycle ride are proven and can only help us during these trying times. We are extremely proud and delighted with the way the past weeks have gone but we are also aware that the constant 'on screen' focus for everyone is taxing and some downtime away from Google Classroom and chat streams is really important. Please also see [here](#) for more ideas for Half term Downtime

Lockdown

Please can I also remind all members of the MECE community that despite it being half-term the lockdown continues. Whilst I also share the frustration, given the plummeting virus numbers in all parts of our catchment area, if we can hold out for a few more weeks it will mean the likelihood of re-opening and normality increases so much more.

Re-opening

Boris Johnson is scheduled to reveal his roadmap out of lockdown on February 22nd and this includes the re-opening of schools. I have seen one document that discusses the potential options but these are so broad that it isn't worth sharing. However, let us cross our fingers and toes for some form of re-opening from March 8th if the virus numbers are right. We are all desperate to hear the sound of a lively playground and a happy classroom once again.

Rewards, Book Drive and Reading Initiative

Last Friday and Saturday staff distributed Lockdown Hero rewards to 30 of our students who have engaged particularly well in the last few weeks. These awards were very well received and given the great little prize of a hot chocolate bomb, cookie and chocolates I can see why. This has been complemented by the distribution of our book drive books this week. Miss Bliss has co-ordinated this wonderful scheme and as a result each child will receive their own reading book. This brilliant initiative has been funded entirely by the MECE community and local charity, the Chiltern Edge Foundation and supports our huge drive to improve literacy and reading rates amongst our students. There is also the opportunity to review the books and this is further complemented by Mrs Grewal's Reading Challenge. Here is a link to the initial [Reading Books for Students](#) letter and all students have access to the Reading Challenge via Google Classroom.



Pause Day and feedback

Our Pause Day this week was well received and I hope all students managed to both catch up and explore some of the curriculum hinterland opportunities that were offered. I know that our staff really enjoyed speaking to parents and students on the phone and we received a lot of excellent comments from this part of our day.

Feedback

We have received some lovely e-mails from parents thanking us for the lessons and support over the last few weeks. Social media posts have also been very encouraging recently and confirm that as a school we are in a most positive position at the moment. We just need OFSTED to come in and validate what all of our internal reviews, stakeholders and external visitors are saying about us!

Lastly, my student of the week this week is from staff nominations and are listed below

- **Summer C** has been *INCREDIBLE* in dance this term. The topic is 'Thriller', alongside learning about Popping and Locking styles of street dance, the pupils are designing their own costume and make-up to represent a chosen 'creature of the night' from the world-famous music video.

Summer has designed and then made/created her own costume, this includes jewellery she made herself! She has been incredible and shows such talent for art and creative subjects.

- **Gabi P**
She always engages well in lessons and just stayed on *Blooket* into break in French. I think she wants to do well.
- **Lucas R** has been an absolute star this week (and all term) in PE.
He works consistently hard, tries his best every lesson and has won many competitions and challenges over the past term!
- **Niyah** (Yr8) this week has been very focused, asked and answered lots of questions and completed all tasks set. He has also completed the tasks to a very high standard. His effort this week has been outstanding and received points for this yesterday.

Science stars of the week

- **Immy H** in particular did a lovely pause day plant cell cushion.
- **Bertha C** – Weekend work experience in Investment banking
- **Taha B**
- **Molly B**
- **Ben R**
All 3 are conducting Virtual Medical Work experience on a Saturday morning.
- **9A** for being so supportive with each other and making everyone laugh in the mornings during tutor time just when we needed it.



- **James B** has been fab! He's completed 1360 questions on Hegarty maths and used the programme 70 times already! I am so proud of him and the hard work he is putting in.
- **Jerry J** in Year 9 has been a real star this term for me in English and Drama. I've heard from other teachers that he has also really stepped up in other subjects. Not only is he working at a really high standard and is engaging fully in all his lessons, he is really courteous in his use of language when using the chat function in lessons.
- **Georgina I** in 7D who is always so eager to contribute and share ideas. Today she basically ran our school trip to London, giving us all her knowledge about the history of the key sites!

As ever, please use our [FAB](#) and [DRAB](#) links to provide us with any feedback on our work and also use the [staff member of the week](#) link if you want to let us know about any member of staff you feel has gone above and beyond for the school.

Please take care and makes sure – parents and students - that the half-term is used as a chance to rest, recuperate and rejuvenate ready for the next half-term.

Stay safe.

Andy Hartley
Headteacher

