

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and carers

As many of you have seen this week the Prime Minister announced:

*Schools in England will not be able to open after the half-term break next month but could begin to return from 8 March.*

*Boris Johnson said a final decision would depend on meeting vaccination targets and schools would get two weeks' notice. He acknowledged it would be "frustrating" for pupils, teachers and parents. There was not enough data yet to decide when to end the lockdown, he added.*

Although many of us were hopeful for everyone to be back in after half term this will not be the case and we are looking at more weeks of home schooling. I would like to thank all of you who are home schooling and doing a remarkable job. I am incredibly proud of the staff who have done an amazing job ensuring that the activities and packs are inspiring and that the curriculum is being followed. I am aware that many of you are juggling jobs, childcare and the home. We know this because many of us have the same challenges ourselves. We are here to help and support, so please contact school if you need us.

We are at capacity in school, please do remember that the government message is to keep children at home if you can. If your circumstances have changed please let us know and we will ensure you can access remote learning.

Following the success of Wellbeing Wednesday, we are doing it again! This will take place on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February. There are a few changes to the 50 activities and the new sheet will be shared with you on Seesaw. It was great to see what everyone did and the fun that everyone had.

Next week is Children's Mental Health week and there will be some activities posted on Seesaw to support this. Children having a routine and timetable for their work, joining the daily zooms to interact with their peers, having daily exercise (joining in with the mountain challenge) following a healthy diet and sleeping well all contribute to mental health.

Safer Internet Day is on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February and there will be some information to follow regarding this. Please do take the time to read the online monthly newsletter that was sent this week. It talks about online learning and screen time and also has links to activities for the 9<sup>th</sup>.

Many thanks again for all your messages of appreciation and recognition of the work that the staff are doing. It really gives us all a boost to have your support. I am very proud of the education we are providing remotely and in school. I am also very proud of our children who are showing resilience and producing amazing work during these times.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Gardiner

West Vale Academy  
Stainland Road  
Greetland  
HX4 8LS

01422 372804 - [admin@westvaleacademy.org.uk](mailto:admin@westvaleacademy.org.uk)

Principal: Mrs F Gardiner  
Vice-Principal: Mrs S Scott

Part of  
Great Heights Academy Trust  
School Street, Greetland,  
Halifax, HX4 8JB  
[MAT@greathightstrust.org.uk](mailto:MAT@greathightstrust.org.uk)

MAT CEO:  
Mrs A Bennett  
Chief Operations Officer:  
Mrs J Firth  
Chief Finance Officer:  
Mrs A Rawson