

Dear Families,





Congratulations to you all! We made it to half term! I cannot thank you enough for the hard work you have all put in to ensure that your children can continue to learn at home. I know the stresses this has put on you all and I am so grateful for all the help you have given us. I am also very proud to lead such a wonderful team of staff who have supported the children in school whilst providing high quality learning at home. Thank you to all of the community.

As a result of the feedback we received from the parent survey we are making a few changes to the way we set remote learning after half term. I genuinely hope that this will only be for 2 weeks!

Firstly Fridays are going to become 'Screen Free Fridays. We know that being on screens is having a big impact on us all and feel that children could really benefit from some time away to do things away from the screen. Children will be expected to join the morning meeting with their teacher to discuss their options for the day and then they will have a choice of activities. Your child will receive a grid like below:

From after half term we will be having screen free Fridays. On that day the children won't need to access screens, with the exception of a morning meeting with their teachers.

Please choose **3** activities from the wellness grid and share pictures, on Google Classroom, of anything that you have created or enjoyed throughout the day. Activities will change each week. Have a truly nourishing day!

Maker Hour		Make a tall tower using objects in your house.	Create a hide-me stone. Go for a walk and hide it for someone to find.	Have a family bake-off and judge whose is best.	Draw a picture on a cereal box and cut it out to make a jigsaw.	Build a den or a fort (inside or outside).	Make a boat that will float in the bath. Whose will float the longest?
Fitness Hour		Make up a fitness routine – Joe Wicks style!	Make an obstacle course either inside or outside.	Teach your family a TikTok dance.	Hold an indoor disco (perhaps a kitchen disco!)	Go for a walk and discuss what you see, hear, smell, taste.	Touch every wall in your house and time how long it takes. Improve your time!
Genius Hour		Share and read your favourite books with each other.	Write and perform a play script involving your family.	Invent a brand new board game. Challenge your family!	Learn to read/spell 5 new words and teach someone else.	Draw a detailed family portrait including any pets.	Write a letter to a family member in another house and post it.
Zen Hour		Help someone in your house (wash the dishes, tidy your room).	Look through a family photo album. Discuss who the people are.	Ask a family member to draw you a picture of your house. Colour it in.	Have a joke competition. Who can tell the funniest joke?	Play a board game or do a jigsaw together.	Listen to some music together. Share your favourite musical artists.

Secondly lots of you asked for more live teaching. Our teachers are currently working flat out, in school and creating pre-recorded videos to support the learning. We have made a decision not to have specific live teaching sessions throughout the day for a number of reasons and based on current research. We have, however, decided to increase the amount of teacher contact time with regular drop in sessions and also how we use our morning and afternoon meeting time. We will look at how this is working the week after half term.

The thing that hit me the most from the parent survey is how children are coping at home. As a parent of primary aged children myself, I know first hand how hard this lockdown has hit children. I will be pushing for a return to school for all children as soon as it is safely possible as I know that there is no substitute. In the meantime if you have any concerns about your child's well being please get in touch with your child's class teacher, Miss West (aht@chestnutsprimary.com) or myself and we will see how we can support you all.

Please take a break over the half term and I cannot wait to see you all soon.

Mrs Horwood