**8 February 2021**

**Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,**

We have made it to the last week of this most difficult half term. Once again thank you so much to all parents and carers for all of your efforts with home schooling; we all know how challenging this is and how everyone's circumstances are different. As I have said many times please try not to worry or put pressure on yourself or your child, doing what you can but primarily making the best of this time together and having a healthy relationship is by the far most important thing you can be doing.

Last week's "Express Yourself " theme was very well received; it was incredible to see so many of our children attend the whole school Thursday zoom in an expressive costume! Well done to Jenson Hulse and Francesca Cummins for their wonderful self-expression photos; an amazon voucher is on its way to you both and you can see their wonderful pictures on the gallery page on the website.

STEM excitement

Our junior classes had visitors to their zooms last week.  Four STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) ambassadors zoomed in to tell us all about their jobs and how they use STEM subjects every day.  With topics ranging from building ice villages in the desert to helping inventors patent their inventions, lots of us were inspired to think about studying STEM subjects in the future. A big thank you goes to our ambassadors and to Jemma from allaboutstem who organised the sessions.

**You will be delighted** to know that we will not be setting any home learning for the half term break; half term is a time to wind down, relax and recharge.

We thought it may be useful to share some ‘Well-Being Activities’ as ideas if you find yourself stuck inside and looking for something ‘chilled’ to do. Hopefully these will be beneficial to the mental health of both you and your child.

There is absolutely no obligation for any of these activities to be completed, and we won’t be asking you to upload anything to the website; teachers and school staff need a rest from home learning too! If you find these activities useful or take part in any other ‘downtime’ feel free to send a photo which we can add to our gallery. Thank you to Jo Tilley and Lisa Bilotta for their hard work leadership with our positive mental health focus.

Finally thank you to OSCA and all parents / carers from all school staff for the very kind and generous donation of goodies brought in this morning. As I write this staff are already getting stuck in to the chocolates and other delights!

Best wishes, take Care

Adam Croft