**12 February 2021**

**Dear Charles Darwin Children, Mums, Dads and Carers,**

Well done to every single member of our school community; we have made it to the last day of the most unusual and challenging half term ever!

My staff and I have been incredibly impressed at the way in which all children and parents / carers have tried their very best to make home schooling a success. I know how difficult it is for you children to be taught by your family members and for mums and dads to take on this role especially those who are also trying to work from home too. Despite the challenges we have consistently seen the very best of you all with children and adults demonstrating the Charles Darwin Way at all times with your resilience and positivity shining through; I am genuinely proud to be part of such a community.

We will not be setting any work for the half term holiday and school staff will not be monitoring or replying to any emails; I know you will agree that they need a break in exactly the same way that our children and parents and carers do!  If your child is keen to have something to keep themselves occupied there are links to many fun wellbeing and art activities on our school website.

As part of our work with all Northwich schools we are excited to announce a new Art club for children. It’s called ‘Art in the Cave’ where you can upload your artwork to the Cave Gallery for a virtual exhibition. The idea is children show their work at a new online gallery and in their real life windows too!

The website is hosted by Kingsmead school but the project is open to all. The link will show you how to get involved and will give you some ideas if you can’t think of any yourself. <https://sites.google.com/kingsmead.cheshire.sch.uk/cavegallery/home>

Don’t forget about the Vale Royal Schools Sports Partnership Family Photo Trails programme - you can access any of the first 11 trails at <https://valeroyalschoolsport.org/family-photo-trails/>.  Following one of the trails on a smartphone you can answer a number of questions to keep you on track and there are opportunities to take photographs - share your adventures with us on social media by tagging us both in @cdarwincps and @VRSSP and using the hashtag #familyphototrails

Thank you all once again for your support, patience and good humour; I know you will join me in thanking school staff too for their tremendous efforts during the last six weeks. We are all desperate for all children to return so that we can get on with doing what we are here to do; providing the best possible care and education for ALL of our children at our wonderful school!

Have a safe and enjoyable break.

Best wishes

Adam Croft