



MESSAGE TO OUR FAMILIES... WITH BEST WISHES FROM THE EWELL GROVE STAFF

First of all, we wanted to thank you, most sincerely, for the dedication and commitment you are putting into your children's learning from home. We know that what is being asked of you is immense and juggling it with your own work must at times feel unachievable. However, you are all doing an incredible job and the positive impact, of this work on your children, will forever be a testament to your devotion.

We get a sense, both from you at home and us within, that all of our inner strength is reaching a point of feeling 'beyond tested'... as each week passes the ask seems to get tougher for every one of us. It has certainly made us, as qualified teachers, reflect on why this is. We know, from working continually within a school year's structure, that the days leading up to a school holiday are always amongst the most challenging; especially the week before February Half Term. This is probably because Christmas is never really a 'holiday', more two weeks of frantic excitement and activity! January is low in terms of daylight hours and the thought of longer and warmer days still seem far from reach. In these circumstances we purposefully think about how to adapt the school day, focusing on the quality of our interactions as opposed to the quantity.

Next week, as we all head for a much needed half term recharge, please permit yourself to reassess the amount of activities you are completing and balancing this with your own and your child's wellbeing. It goes without saying we are not saying STOP! Instead focus on the activities that your child enjoys most and therefore can complete, to their best of their ability, with less of you... and more of them! *The link below under 'Do Something Different Day' is intended to support you with this.*

We have to be brave and believe the media headlines that indicate some shards of hope and light of a return to 'normal school routine' will be allowed soon after the half term. After everything we have achieved to date, let's just keep pressing forward to the finish line. Please remember staff are on site and ready to support, give a sanity check or simply have a chat if it helps.

Take care, be kind to yourselves and remember we believe you are all doing an amazing job. We can all see that Ewell Grove's children are safe, loved and able to engage, even in what we must acknowledge are indeed challenging and tough times.

FEBRUARY HALF TERM HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES – FOR CHILDREN OF CRITICAL WORKERS AND VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE



Surrey Outdoor Learning and Development's holiday activities – [TAZ The Adventure Zone](#) will still be running during the February half term school holidays but **only for children of critical workers and vulnerable young people***, following the most recent Government guidelines. (This applies to those children who currently have a place in school and proof may be required).

[*Click here to view the Government's definition of these categories](#)

Activities will be available with smaller ratios for:

- Juniors 8 -11 years (1:6)
- Seniors 11-13 years (1:8)

You can make your bookings now:

- Henley Fort, Guildford – [book here](#)
- High Ashurst, near Dorking – [book here](#)
- Thames Young Mariners, near Richmond/Kingston – [book here](#)

The safety of our participants, their parents/carers and our staff remain our top priority and our [existing extra COVID measures](#) are still in force.

HALF TERM 15TH-19TH FEBRUARY 2021

Schools will close as usual over February half-term and are not expected to remain open to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers during that week; children on site will finish at their usual times on **Friday 12th February**.

Please email info@ewell-grove.surrey.sch.uk to let us know if at any point your child tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) over half term.

Children who are currently on the critical worker and vulnerable register will return after the half term break on **Monday 22nd February**.

PARENTS' VIRTUAL APPOINTMENTS

Parents' Virtual Appointments will take place during the week commencing **22nd February**.

For further details, please refer to the [letter](#) sent out on 4th February (also available on our website under 'virtual office' 'letters').

Please note: this is a discussion between adults and therefore children must not be present.

DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT DAY!

Following the [link](#) to the document which is intended to help anyone who wants a day away from the screen... and fancies doing something completely different! The document can also be found on our website under 'news & events' 'newsletters'.