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Dear Parents and Carers,

The end of the first week of our first ever virtual school! There have been **lots of successes and lots of positive feedback from parents**. This feedback from a parent reflects well what parents and carers have been telling us, 'I just wanted to reach out to say **what a wonderful job you and your team have done with the virtual school...**it has been slightly manic at times getting the technology sorted while working from home but **it is absolutely worth every second to see the children engaging with their teachers (who are amazing!)** and then accessing the work set, mostly independently.'

For our virtual school to work well for your children **it is important that everyone follows the rules of our virtual school**. We have had parents bringing children cups of tea, sandwiches, etc and allowing children to lounge around under blankets and such like. When children attend lessons in physical school this obviously does not happen. When children attend virtual school live lessons, it also must not happen there because it detracts children from concentrating well and learning well. Thank you.

It has been good to see so many children learning so well. For some parents, allowing their child to struggle and to make mistakes as they learn new things appears to be a new experience. Struggling and making mistakes with new learning is an important part of the process. In fact, neuroscience and educational research show that struggling with new learning and making mistakes helps this process of learning new things – we actually learn better with an appropriate struggle and appropriate amount of mistake making. Therefore, however tempted parents may be to help their children to submit 'perfect' work, this actually restricts the learning of their children. Also, **teachers need to see what children have not fully learned so that they know what to teach next. This aspect of assessment is crucial for teachers to do their jobs well. Please help them to help your child.** I know there is a fine line between supporting a child's learning and getting them to 'do' a worksheet perfectly without good understanding. I am sure that as we work in partnership, during the time of our virtual school, then this will become easier.

Those parents and carers who have children entitled to Free School Meals will be receiving vouchers in the near future. The exact timings of this are reliant on the companies that process the vouchers.

We are also reliant on the government's device ordering scheme for some of our IT support for families. **We have ordered all the devices allocated to us and as soon as they arrive we will be sending them out to families so that their children can better access our virtual school.**

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The staff team are very conscious that children are spending more time online. We know that our MS Teams and Purple Mash platforms are safe for them to use. However, other aspects of the internet can pose safety risks for children. **By the end of next week, all children will have had at least one lesson about how to keep safe online.** Parents and carers may also want to look at the family guidance on the thinkuknow website for information and support about online safety - https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/?utm_source=Thinkuknow&utm_campaign=c96a649dde-TUK_GLOBAL_12_11_20&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0b54505554-c96a649dde-63980689

There has been some research highlighting that children are, during times of national lockdown, not getting anywhere near enough exercise. For our children, there is a simple solution to that issue – **attend PE with Mr C!** In addition to a PE lesson for their class/phase, children can also attend the daily fitness PE lesson which runs from 8.30 to 9.00 every weekday morning. These fitness PE lessons can be found on our YouTube Channel – <http://tiny.cc/mnyoutube>

Last, but most definitely not least, I want to publicly thank and praise our wonderful staff team. They have worked very hard all of last week and all of this week to see that our virtual school got off to a very good start.

Yours sincerely,



Mr M Carter-Tufnell
(Headteacher)



Golden Award

Well done to the following children who have been nominated for Golden Awards this week

Deon – Aristotle

Connor – Plato

Darcie – Socrates

(Your certificates will be kept in the office until you are able to safely collect them.)