14th January 2022,

Dear Parents/Carer’s,

For the first time in what feels like forever it is so nice to have school fully open in January and to begin the ‘push’ towards Easter, Spring and hopefully the better weather! Such a relief that the forecast snow didn’t amount to the apocalyptic amounts the media were hinting at last week. Please be assured we will always do our very best to ensure school is open if at all possible on seriously snowy days and in the unlikely event we do have to close we let our families know as soon as realistically possible.

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| **Covid Update**: *I’m sure we’re all very used to the ‘ping’ as the Covid Warn & Inform email lands in our inboxes on a very regular basis. At any one time we do have a fair number of children and staff testing positive. Within school we have continued all the cleaning routines but in place at the beginning of the outbreak, each classroom has its own CO2 monitor in place and continue to do all we can to try and limit infections. Currently we are not gathering together for assemblies or as a whole staff team to try and prevent any large scale outbreaks.*  *Parents do need to be aware that staffing is a real challenge as teachers and support staff test positive, and often changes need to be made at the last minute. It is quite usual to have between 10 & 20% of our staff team off due to Covid on any one day. The school really does appreciate your support with this.* |

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| **Staffing:-** In addition to the last staffing update  Mrs Sarah Clover left Oakworth at the end of the Autumn term after working as a support assistant for 18 months -we wish her all the best for the future. She is replaced on the support staff team by Mrs Nicola Charmbury, who I am sure will be familiar to many of you. |

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| **Class Updates:-** |
| Year 6 |
| This half term we will be continuing our geography-based topic, rainforests. We will explore in further detail, locating countries using longitude, latitude and the equator. The children will be studying similarities and differences between three regions within the UK, North and South America. Keeping in theme with living things and the world around us, Year 6 will be learning about Evolution and inheritance. We will identify how animals and plants have adapted to suit their environment; Charles Darwin’s research will be part of our study. In computing, we will be using the online application Tinkercad to construct 3D models which represent physical objects. |
| Year 5 |
| This half-term, Year 5 children are being Super Scientists!  They will be planning and carrying out a range of investigations looking at the properties and changes of materials.  Linked into our Super Scientists topic, the children will be replicating different artist styles to create and compare portraits of famous scientists. |
| Year 4 |
| During the Autumn half term Year 4 have been learning about the Ancient Egyptians. They have analysed artefacts and looked at different sources of information. They have made their own creative timelines to show different periods in History and have plotted Egypt on a world map. Year 4 have researched and tried Ancient Egyptian food, looked at the clothing worn, compared the social hierarchy and understood the jobs people had. They are excited to continue the topic this half term. |
| Year 3 |
| This half term Year 3 are exploring the Stone Age through their English book and their topic lessons. Throughout this topic we will be looking at and comparing life then and now. In Maths, the children are continuing to work on their 3's, 4's and 8 times tables and recognising the relationship between multiplication and division. |
| Year 2 |
| Year 2 has been riding along on the adventure of Orion and The Dark in English! We're learning to multiply in Maths and we are taking a walk on the wild side finding out about animals in Science. Christianity is the faith we are learning about this half term. Our class reader is Martin's Mice as our chosen author is Dick King-Smith. |
| Year 1 |
| This term we are going to be learning all about Africa. We will be designing and making a bag and an African thumb pot, before turning ourselves in to Oakworth’s best chefs by preparing and making Benachin a traditional African dish, ready or our fab finish – ‘An African Market |
| Reception |
| Reception have kicked off the new term looking at the changes in the seasons and what winter brings.  We will continue to explore winter through key stories before moving on to find out about other cold places in the world, the animals that inhabit such places and the famous arctic explorer Robert Scott.  We will also be exploring the multicultural festivals of Pesach, Chinese New Year and Holi. |
| Nursery |
| Nursery's new topic this half term is "Dinosaurs"!  Lots of the Hippos enjoy playing with the prehistoric creatures in the small world, so this has fed into our child led learning approach.  Over the course of the half term we will be using the dinosaur theme to inspire mark making and writing, looking at and describing pattern using the text "Dinosaurs Love Underpants" and investigating textures both natural and man-made.  Our phonic knowledge will continue to develop; we are all very good at hearing the sound our name starts with...but what about other words and objects! We will start by listening to words beginning with M, A and S, introducing the letter order our friends further up school are using in their Read, Write Inc phonic lessons. |

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| **Parent Involvement Worker:-**  Mrs Scargill our parental involvement worker (PIW) would like to share with you what's happening in school.  Currently on offer are Storysacks that can come home with your child for a week. These can be chosen on a Wednesday after school in the main playground.  Baby cafe on a Friday afternoon, 1.45 start time. An opportunity for parents and babies (not confidently walking) to get together in a safe and stimulating environment.  Toddlin Time, a follow on from baby cafe in the school hall, dates to be confirmed.  Various opportunities to support your children's learning.  Supporting with the schools fundraising events.  Help and support during challenging times.  Mrs Scargill can be contacted by text 07544974450 or email [helen.scargill@bronteacademytrust.org.uk](mailto:helen.scargill@bronteacademytrust.org.uk) |

Key Dates for this term :

25th January – Year 6 Residential

7th February – Non-uniform day “express yourself” to tie in with Children’s Mental health week (7-13 Feb)

8th February – 3 Huskies – Pedestrian training

9th February – 3 Penguins – Pedestrian training

**9th February – Face to face parents evening**

All details on above will follow.

Best wishes,

Ed Whitehead

Headteacher.