



Dear Parents and Carers,

29th January 2021

Another week has flown past, well done for everything you are doing balancing supporting children at home - I really hope the routine that we are getting into has helped children to be a bit more independent. Our remote learning offer documents are now on our website <https://castlemanor.org.uk/news/remote-learning> if you would like to read them. We are currently surveying students about the provision so that we can keep tweaking, and will survey parents again at half term. Your feedback has really helped us, and our teachers are trying new things and sharing them with each other brilliantly, I am so proud of our staff and students and families.

We have been able to supply laptops to some children without devices but still need more. We are awaiting more from the Department for Education and our Trust, but if you know anyone or any businesses who would like to donate then please direct them to our new platform <https://www.letslocalise.co.uk/school/castle-manor-academy/sch121072/campaigns/> We will be using this to promote events such as quizzes and bingo, as well as campaign for projects for our school - if you become a follower it gets us more attention, so please do follow!

I wanted to remind you that we have access to hardship funding where we can support you if needed. We are passionate about kindness and supporting our children and families and anything you need can be accessed confidentially. Mrs Horne is the key link and can be reached on VHorne@castlemanor.org.uk She has been in conversation with Haverhill Reach who run not only the local foodbank but have many other ways to support. This includes funding to pay utility bills, clothing, white goods and electrical goods such as laptops for those who need them. If you don't feel comfortable contacting Reach directly please contact us and we will broker that support for you. You really don't have to be alone, we are all in this together.

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week and we have a variety of activities that we are doing with children to focus on this. This includes work in tutor time and in lessons, and also out of school opportunities to drop in to 'Tea and Talk' virtual sessions. We will be sending children invitations on Monday to a session on Tuesday 3.30pm with Miss Neal and will do this regularly.

Headteacher: Mrs. Vanessa Whitcombe

Unity Schools Partnership is a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales with company number 07400386. The registered office is at Unity SP Offices, Park Road, Haverhill, Suffolk, CB9 7YD.



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You will have seen in the press the announcement from Boris Johnson that schools will at the earliest be going back on 8th March. We are not sure what this looks like yet and won't until the earliest after half term. So for the moment we are focusing on what we know, and that is that we have 4 more weeks at least of remote learning. We finish for half term on Friday 12th February and there will be no work or lessons set for half term week. School will be closed for that week with no in school provision for key worker or vulnerable children.

Our Trust, Unity Schools Partnership, have been working on an enrichment after school club offer. This can be accessed here <https://padlet.com/unityspenrichment/8yfmj2pi5bxafau> and is added to every week. It is really worth having a look at, some excellent opportunities on offer. We also have had contact from Haverhill Rovers who are hosting lots of great sport and fitness activities for all age groups - please see the attached posters for further information.

As always thank you so much for your support, please contact me on VWhitcombe@castlemanor.org.uk if you need to.

Best wishes

Vanessa Whitcombe
Headteacher



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