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28<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear Ellingham Families,

Half-term is upon us and this gives us the opportunity to thank you for all of your support for the school. Your children have achieved so much and their positive approach to learning is really evident in their work. We didn't quite make it unscathed to the end of term and, as you know, have had to isolate three classes. What is positive is that the measures in place in – class bubbles, hand-washing, social distancing and masks – means that the impact has been contained and it is unlikely that the cases in class are related. Hopefully you have had the opportunity to pick up a test kit from outside of school today. If your child has a positive test, please advise the school by emailing [office@elp.rbksch.org](mailto:office@elp.rbksch.org). We would be grateful if you could test your child before they return to school on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June.

Despite everything the children have had a positive and successful learning experience culminating in a trip for Year 2 to Hogsmill stream and an amazing arts week. After the half-term, the children will have the opportunity to wander around the exhibition of the school art, in their classes, and reflect on the fantastic creations of their schoolmates. We will share their artwork with you too, on-line of course.

As a school, we have continued our improvement programme, ensuring that teaching staff have attended remote training on our new Sounds Write phonics programme and maths mastery and practical science as well as our usual network meetings for subject leaders. There is great evidence of stamina in writing and good progress in both reading and writing, which really reflects the efforts made by children, teachers and parents to sustain our focus on writing during lockdown. Teachers have spent this half-term ensuring all of the key skills of maths are embedded so that next term the curriculum can be completed. For some children where the lockdown has had an impact on learning, we have accessed the National Tutoring Programme for writing and maths and supported additional reading where identified. As well as these core subjects, there has been some exciting projects in such things as science, history and geography.

After all their hard work, your children deserve a really good rest and lots of fun. Fingers crossed for some glorious summer sunshine. Look forward to seeing everyone back refreshed and raring to go for the final half-term.

Yours sincerely,



**Lisa Keogh**  
Headteacher