**Cartmel Priory School, February 2021**

We are now well into the third lockdown with our whole school community continuing to manage virtual learning as we continue to support the national situation. We have been overwhelmed by the positive feedback we have continued to receive about our remote learning offer. Our students who are working from home have been nothing less than amazing, as have their parents who have been coping incredibly with the pressures of home schooling whilst balancing their own workloads.

The last 10 months has seen a whole new vocabulary appear, with calls of “maintain social distancing!” “2 metres apart please” and “where is your mask?” being regular throw outs in the school corridors. The small number of students we have on site have adapted brilliantly to our Lateral Flow Testing regime. They have continued to access their live lessons through TEAMS whilst maintaining social distancing in classrooms. During January, as a school, we have supported National Mental Health week, celebrated National Story Telling week, acknowledged International Holocaust Remembrance Day with a special assembly and students lighting candles at home, and run a competition to see who has the most unique work space. Our Facebook posts have helped to keep everyone in our community in touch.

Finally, Spring seems to be tantalisingly “around the corner” with snowdrops beginning to push their way out, daylight hours are extending and occasionally we catch a glimpse of sunlight streaming across the Cartmel fields. Even the daily commute to school is now completed in daylight which makes a whole world of difference, uplifting the spirits of the staff still working on site. As we approach a time when the school will be fully re-open to all of our students we intend to take all of the learning from this extraordinary period of time forward with us. Thank you to everyone for their continued support.