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Chief Executive Officer: Sir John Townsley BA (Hons) NPQH

Principal: Mr M Fitzpatrick BA (Hons) MA

Chair of Governors: Mr J Fyffe

23 October 2019

Dear families,

It's been a successful but very challenging first half term for everyone at Morley Newlands. Not only are we contending with a new way of working, but we arrive back at school following an unprecedented period away from school life. Despite this, children and adults have demonstrated a real desire to get back to normal as much as possible with the school day running smoothly and lessons going really well.

However, the very unusual situation has made returning to the daily routine difficult for some, particularly in Year 6 in some cases. Something teachers have found is that certain issues within the year group and the breakdown of relationships are due to how some pupils are using social media. It appears that the period of lockdown has increased some pupils' use of various online social media platforms, which is, to some extent, understandable.

A key problem we are facing in Year 6 is down to incidents of unkindness in how some children are communicating with each other online after school. This has had repercussions within the classroom and on the playground with pupils becoming upset which then leads to the breakdown of friendships.

Please, as a parent, can you be extra vigilant in monitoring your child's use of devices over the half term break to ensure that they are using them responsibly, as well as avoiding the chance of becoming involved in upsetting online exchanges with fellow classmates. It should also be pointed out that the vast majority of social media platforms – Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, etc. should not be accessed, by law, under the age of 13.

Thank you for your support in helping us to contend with this difficult issue that we believe is impacting on the performance of some pupils within the classroom.

Have a restful and enjoyable half term holiday and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Yours faithfully



Mr M Fitzpatrick
Principal
Morley Newlands Academy