



14th January 2021

Good morning!

I thought I would take the opportunity to catch up with you all today, as I am sure for some of you, and your children, the novelty of the situation may be wearing off again, a week later, and you may be in need of reassurance.

Expectations

We want to support the community as much as possible. Due to varying expectations and personal situations, we will not match these for everyone.

The staff might be said to be 'between a rock and a hard place'.

Unlike in the first lockdown, the government has issued schools with a directive to ensure that four hours' worth of remote learning is offered and that it matches as much as possible, the programme of work that was planned for the spring.

This will not suit everyone. Some parents would prefer more work and some less; however, we recognise different circumstances and know that everyone, including the staff, many of whom are working in similar situations, are doing their best.

Remote Learning

Each day, children are offered a Class Meet whereby the children can see friends, as well as their teacher, and the daily activities are explained to the class.

Beyond this there are tasks which can be done when it suits family life and then the work is submitted to the teacher to enable feedback to be given.

The staff have also offered Drop-ins and recorded lessons to support the children which means that screen time has increased a little from what it was last year; however, we have received feedback that children seem more engaged and parents are able to focus on their own work.

This time, like last, there is no need to run a school timetable. It may not fit into your family life at the moment. Our activities should be available to the children for the whole day, so if they need to take a break and play a ball game in the garden, enjoy a card game, draw a picture, build a Lego tower, have a giggle with brothers/sisters, they can.

You are, and have always been, your child's primary educator. If you decide that your child needs a break, then that should happen. There is nothing to feel stressed or guilty about.

Do not compare yourself to others either. Perfect social media posts will not be perfect.

Queries

All the teachers, when they are not in school, are off-site preparing daily work to ensure that the children have access to current and responsive learning activities. They and the support staff are also in regular contact with your children and responding to queries they may have.

Children struggling a little because the answer is not obvious or help is not immediate is okay, as they will learn problem-solving skills and develop resilience. You and the school are doing our best. If our learning offer is causing undue anxiety or stress, or the class assignments are taking longer than four hours, then your child/you can feed this back to his/her teacher – child through the Google Classroom and parent via the office.

If children are not logging on, responding or submitting work, then as we have a duty of care, we will be in contact with you. Please do not think of this negatively. We want everyone to be happy and learning.

Future

The Senior Leadership Team met yesterday to discuss how we might adapt the upcoming Parent and Child Learning Reviews to support families working at home. We will be in touch in the coming weeks.

We will also be moving Book Week to a time when we are all together again and some fun activities have already been planned for the week before half term.

Other Support

Currently, our staff, socially distancing, are making doorstep deliveries to families.

During the past week, over thirty laptops have been delivered from our school bank of resources, as well as over two hundred meals/food parcels, 3G data SIM cards and welfare support to families who need it.

If you have not been in touch and need this help, please let us know. We are a wonderful team and can do more in partnership with you.

Thank you for all your many messages of support over the past week. The whole team have very much appreciated that you have taken the time to write or phone. We will display them on our Compliments Wall when we are all back.

Take care of yourself and each other.
I hope your child is happy.

Anne Eardley
Head Teacher