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Head Teacher: Mrs Paula Fearn



3rd April 2020

Dear Parents

Thank you for your continued support over the past few weeks, life will hopefully have settled into some sort of “new normal”. You are doing a great job!

I know many of you will be worrying about so many different things. A lot of the information in this letter has been shared between Head teachers to support our families. Take a few minutes and have a read.

Lots of people are feeling stressed, overwhelmed and under pressure by everything that's happening. This includes the work being sent home for your children. I wanted to just give my perspective on it all as a Headteacher and I hope this can help with that somewhat.

A few points to note first:

- 1) This is not home-schooling. This is an unprecedented emergency situation impacting on the whole world. Let's keep perspective. Home-schooling is a choice, where you considered it, you plan for it and you are your child's school teacher in whatever form you choose.
- 2) You are, and always have been, your child's primary educator. If you decide that your child isn't going to engage with anything sent home and is going to spend the entire period playing, or baking, or watching TV, then that is your choice. That is your right. There is nothing to stress or feel guilty about.
- 3) Schools had no notice, no preparation time and we were NOT told to 'continue to plan lessons as normal and just send them home' – that's NOT possible. If it were, we'd all be out of a job!
- 4) It is absolutely not possible to facilitate distance learning with a primary aged child and work from home at the same time. The very idea is nonsense. If you're trying to do that, stop now. You can certainly have activities where your child learns, but your focus is your job, and survival. Again, unprecedented. Stop trying to be superheroes.



So, a few FAQs:

- My school has sent home lots of physical work. Pages and pages, hours and hours. How am I supposed to get through it all?!

You're not, don't try. It's not a competition, or a race.

- My school keeps sending home links and emails with more work. How do I make it stop? Ahhhhhh!

See above. These are suggestions and ideas because the school is worried we're not offering enough. Use them if they suit you, don't if they don't suit. If you're getting stressed, stop opening the emails. No one will know!

- Someone in my child's class has everything done and we've barely started. Will they fall behind?

Your child will not fall behind. This is all revision and reminder work. If children could all learn new concepts without specific teaching, we wouldn't need teachers. They will cover all of this again, multiple times.

- I'm not doing any work with my kids. All they're doing is building Lego, cooking and playing outside.

All of this is learning - very valuable learning. Give yourself and them a break.

- How can I get three different lots of work done with 3 different children of different ages?

You can't, stop trying. If they're old enough, try to get them to do little bits independently. Otherwise try to do something they can all engage with, reading a story together, some free writing, baking etc.

My ideal for the children in our school?

- Please visit the class hubs on our website, there are activities set on a weekly basis, work through at your own pace as and when you can
- Children complete the online activities such as Education city, TT Rock stars and Purple Mash
- Log on to our St Mary's face book page for a daily story
- Complete the Phonics activities with Mrs Hunns
- A bit of reading every day (independent or to them or via audiobook etc)
- Practical hands on maths. Be that via cooking, cleaning, outside or some maths games, physical or digital.

- Some fine motor work. Lego, cutting, playdough, tidying up small toys.
- Physical exercise everyday
- Some art/music where possible through the week. Doesn't need to be guided.
- Researching in a book or online and putting together something to present to you or the family.
- If younger, lots of imaginative free play, the more independent the better.

You are doing enough. You are loving your children and supporting them through a difficult time. Look after yourself. Minimising stress is absolutely vital in a time like this for mental health. Don't let this be something that stresses you. Only you can control that by accepting it is in your circle of control, you are the primary educator, and this is all your call.

We are just about to go into the Easter Holidays, we hope the weather stays fine for you and that you can enjoy this time with your families. We will upload further home learning for after the Easter Holidays, this will be available from Monday 20th April.

As always, we miss you to infinity and beyond.

Yours sincerely

P. Fearn

Mrs Paula Fearn
Head Teacher