

Afternoon everyone,

I hope that you and your family are safe and well and I would urge you to follow guidelines and stay at home, if you can, for everyone’s safety. I would also like to extend thanks to those key workers who are helping to maintain services for everyone, and wish them all continued health, both physically and mentally, in what are very difficult times.

You will have received a work pack for your child in recent days which gives a wide range of Literacy and Numeracy and I have been suggesting, via the school website, some websites that you might want to make use of in the days ahead.

I do however want to reassure parents that we are not expecting you to become teachers overnight and set down a regime within your house that replicates a school day. We know that everyone has different sets of circumstances within their home, different family members to cater for, different access to technology and we recognise the stress this may be causing.

I want to make it clear that the work we have sent home is helpful to keep your child thinking and learning when the teacher cannot provide that for them, however we are facing a situation in all our lives that we have no experience of and your child is experiencing that too. They are just starting to realise that they won’t be going to school, they won’t have a teacher or classroom assistant around to help them out, they won’t be out playing with their friends or playing in the school playground, as well as being surrounded by worried adults and perhaps exposed to regular news bulletins.

Take time to reassure your child, to spend time doing things with them even if that is helping with tasks around the house, perhaps keeping fit with Joe Wicks (other options are available – though maybe not as attractive!), drawing pictures to show to granny on Facetime, read them a story or find an audible story that will read to them.

Of course you can continue to work through the learning packs and I would encourage this when and if you can but please be reassured that when we return to school, no matter how long away that is, we will work alongside you and your child. We are teachers and we will quickly be able to see where we need to begin with your child to ensure that the transition back into school and the continuation of their learning will be what is best for them.

Keep safe x

Joanne Lyons