

Friday 29th January 2021

Dear Families,

The general mood in the country at the moment isn't great: cold weather, lockdown continuing, unable to book Summer holidays and the news seems to remain negative. If you are finding lockdown life hard at the moment, you are not alone.

I want you to know that we understand and want to support you. Many of our staff are also parents and when they are not in school, they are working on remote learning and therefore it won't be unusual for some of you to have spotted their children on their Tapestry and SeeSaw. It's hard for everyone at the moment so we can empathise with those of you who are struggling to balance work and family life.

I want you to know how well you are doing. I am lucky enough to be able to see across our entire learning platforms of Tapestry and SeeSaw, and what I see are children who are learning well and sending amazing pieces of work as well as those completing the paper packs each week. I see parents supporting their children whilst juggling their own pressures and I'm so proud of our whole school community. **Thank you for everything you are doing!**

As a school, we have to show that we are meeting our statutory responsibility in delivering the specified amount of hours of learning. Please do not feel overwhelmed by this. I know from some emails and phonecalls that for some parents the learning is spot on but for others it will be too much or too little. There is not a one size fits all and you can only do what you can do. At the end of the day, if the children are warm, have food in their tummies and know they are loved, then take it from me - you are doing a brilliant job.

Please do not feel we are judging you if there are days when hardly anything is completed or uploaded. You mustn't feel stressed out or under pressure to complete everything. It is there if you want it and if you don't, it is more than ok to rest and say no.

We all need to think about how we can make best of this situation. Of course we want our children to thrive and do well but, you were never meant to be their teachers. You are their parents and to confuse the two just doesn't work as I know only too well from my six year old. Despite being a teacher for over 20 years, I continually get told that even though I am a teacher, I am not *his* teacher and therefore not qualified to teach him Maths!

Please do not worry or feel guilty about your child falling behind. When we all returned in September, we assessed everyone and put interventions in place to ensure all children were back on track with their learning. As an example, by Christmas many children had made accelerated progress in Phonics and Reading. We will do this again when we return.

If you or your child is struggling, we are here. Please do reach out to us. If it's a problem with the work and understanding, please pop a note on Tapestry or SeeSaw and we will be able to help and respond. If you are struggling and want advice or a place to turn to, give us a ring. We are here even though our doors are currently closed to some. Don't be afraid to share with us – we are stronger together and we need each other now more than ever.

Stay safe and hope we see you very soon,



S Elliott
Headteacher