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30th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope that you and your loved ones are keeping safe and well during these very difficult times. I know that you, like everyone, will be anxious about the spread of Covid-19 and the implications this has on every aspect of our lives.

As you will be aware, the majority of staff in school are working from home with a small number providing emergency childcare when it is needed. The teachers have been busy searching out and sharing a range of learning activities through the class blog pages which you may want to take a look at. Please be aware though, that these are merely suggestions for things you could do while your child is at home.

There has been much hype in the press about “Home schooling”. The situation with your child is not home schooling, which is a deliberate decision by parents not to send their child to school and to take over their education themselves. Your child is at home for their safety. For those of you at home, you are also at home for your safety. Many of you will be trying to combine working at home with childcare – not easy at all! We recognise that the current situation puts pressure on families and we do not wish to add to this so please use the suggestions made by teachers when and if you need them.

I know this is an extremely worrying time for everyone but please try to make the most of this time together with your children – I urge you to seize the chance to enjoy your time with them. Please encourage them to read, read, read! Encourage them to practice multiplication tables but remember to do the fun stuff too: play in the garden, dust off all the board games you have, build a den (my children used to love this!) and just enjoy being with them – they are great fun! Your children won’t remember doing online learning with you but they will remember the great times you had playing together.

It is also understandable that children may be feeling worried during this time. They don’t understand what is happening and all their routines have gone. Their anxiety may show itself in many ways; they may become argumentative, they may become upset or they may display behaviours which are out of character. This can be difficult for you as parents. Mrs Clarke will be posting some suggestions for ways to help you deal with your child’s anxiety on the school blog later this week.

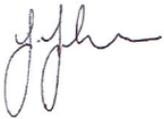
The teachers will be writing to the children shortly so please look out for the letters which will be sent by email. They will explain how you can share any learning/fun activities on the Kid's Zone page on the website.

The school office is currently closed but you can contact school via the contact form on the website or the admin email address. Should you have any concerns around the welfare of any child in the community, please click on the link on the front page of our website which will direct you to the appropriate agency for support or advice.

Being a parent is amazing – it can also be extremely frustrating and hard work and I do hope that you are able to take some time to look after yourself. Maybe going for your daily exercise alone sometimes could be just what you need!

Take care. Follow the Government advice and hopefully we will be able to return to school sooner rather than later.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs. Jenkinson

