

12.6.20

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is Friday again and another school week draws to a close. I hope all is well and the forthcoming weekend finds you in good spirits. We have had a really positive week in school, welcoming in our Year 6 and Year 1 children back into class. Considering the unprecedented times we are currently living in, the children have been absolute credits to their families and the school, following the new changes, engaging in learning and interacting with their peers without compromising safety guidance. In addition, our Educare children are well settled into school and enjoying being back in familiar surroundings.

It is with regret that, at present, we are unable to open up any other year groups. As the term progresses, I hope this will change and I will update you as soon as I have further news. I understand that this must be frustrating for you as parents and carers. Many of our staff team are also parents of young children and we can wholly empathise with the difficulty of home schooling while trying to continue with work and daily routine. The resources we prepare for you online provide a structure for you to follow, however I realise that this isn't always practical or possible. As parents, we need to be aware of the great job we are doing at the moment, even when it might not feel like it, especially if learning tasks are not attempted or completed.

We must understand that a walk outside, an exploration in the woods, a trip along the river bank, a venture into the moors; these experiences offer so much enrichment that online learning can't offer. A rich conversation about the weather, the latest sports news, animals on a TV program, the latest news on Covid, the current demonstrations across the country – these all offer wonderful opportunities for children to develop knowledge and understanding about the world they live in, while developing their language and communication skills. We as parents try to encourage children to not watch too much television. However, television can offer so many learning opportunities. Children can learn about nature in Springwatch, they can learn about the seas in Blue Planet, they can explore our rich history in documentaries or even in Horrible Histories. They can also learn to count, read, communicate and interact with a myriad of programs on the children's television channels. In addition, the internet offers a wealth of learning programs and apps to support what we have already planned in our learning.

Don't forget the dens that you build in the house and the garden, the music you listen to and songs that you sing together, the stories you read out loud before bed or in the garden, the football you kick around together outside, the drama and role play you create at home – all of these are rich learning opportunities for your children – don't forget this. Keep up the great work you are doing.

We are not just a school – we are a community and a family, caring for each other. Take care and stay safe,

Eddie Brown

SAFE, RESPECTED AND READY TO STEP OUT INTO THE WORLD

Belong

Creative

Sustainability

Curious

Empowered