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4.2.2021

This is just for you parents/carers (and any other adult involved in Remote learning!),

Instead of the Weekly Word tomorrow I just wanted to take this opportunity to give you a few words of encouragement about Remote Learning.

First and foremost, you're doing a great job. You might have days where you think you're not but trust me, you are. We all really appreciate the lengths you are going to with the perpetual juggling of work, childcare and your own worries about the current situation. You really have been thrown in at the deep end and you are coping remarkably well.

Secondly, and I genuinely mean this, don't put too much pressure on yourself ensuring your child(ren) complete all the work that has been set. It is a statutory requirement from the DfE for us to assign between three and four hours of work per day but we know that this is not always possible to get this done. If it gets done, that's great, but if you want to leave something out because you get a sense your child has had enough for one day then that is fine also. With my own son Henry it is sometimes just not worth the battle!

Of course, there are some parents/carers who want more and there are some parents/carers who say it is too much. And there are some who say it is about right. The reality is, Remote Learning is hard going and everyone's situation is different. Remote Learning is no substitute for being in school either. And whilst we are really pleased with the provision we have on offer, some of those day to day decisions about how much work to do and which activities to choose will always be yours to make. We are not here to judge and we would only ever make contact with families if there was no engagement or no work being done for a prolonged period of time. So don't worry, you certainly won't be called if a piece of Maths is put on the backburner for a day or two!

The emails and messages we get now from parents/carers give me a sense that some families have hit a bit of a brick wall with Remote Learning and are finding it increasingly difficult to motivate their child(ren). We understand this. The children (whether they choose to admit it or not!) are missing school and this is a normal reaction to what seems like a never-ending situation. We are here to help where we can so please get in touch if you are struggling. We might not always have a perfect solution but sometimes it is good just to offload and know that you are not alone. Some good news, all being well, is school will be back open on the 8th March so that gives us 15 days left if you don't include half term. That represents a home straight for me, if you pardon the sporting analogy, so let's do whatever athletes do in the home straight to get over the line! I am fairly confident this date will not change but as ever we just have to be patient and see what happens in the next few weeks.

I also wanted to say thank you again for keeping your child(ren) at home where and when you can. This has made a huge difference to levels of transmission within the community and I am incredibly grateful for this. It has made sure that school remains safe for the children and staff.

And finally, if you are still struggling with your devices, laptops or otherwise, then please contact school. We have said it many time before but Remote Learning is almost impossible without a certain level of equipment. Any requests can be handled discretely; we are more than happy to drop one off at your house if necessary, so drop us an email if this is you.

That's all from me. Well done again and take care,

Mr I. Johnson