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Thursday 26th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to write a letter to you all at this surreal time just to say that I am thinking of you all. Staff have been fantastic (both those who have been in and out of school this week!) and we have set up at Robin Hood a “Skeleton School” to support those parents who are keyworkers at this critical time. Thank you to all these parents for trusting us so implicitly with their children, communicating with us well and being appreciative of our efforts.

For all of us, the week has been difficult. Managing your own worries and anxieties – trying to keep your cool when a child (aged 0 – 17+) is having a meltdown in the house, wondering what you are going to cook tonight and how keep the house stocked with food. Some of you will be juggling the impossible task of effectively “working from home” whilst the children are running about and demanding attention. Some of you will have had the additional worry about your child’s health – or concern for the health and wellbeing of family around you.

So... in light of all this – please do not worry about the added pressures of “home learning!”

You are, and always have been, your **child's key educator**. We will help you in every way we can and I know that staff will be pinging you emails and uploading learning on our website for you to access. What is also really important is just giving yourself and your child / children time. This week (and possibly next...) my advice would be – forget home learning: just get in a garden (if you are lucky enough to have one), read some books, let your kids watch films / TV, get the crafts out (and try not to get too cross when they make constant mess or too annoyed when they start arguing with each other and with you!) Give each other some space. Give each other some time. Talk to each other. Tell them how you are feeling but reassure them that things will get back to normal. Look for the positives, e.g. the sun is shining and stay at home!



Our rainbow Skeleton school!

Rainbows I painted with my girls this week!

Some questions you may be thinking:

- My school keeps sending home links and emails with more work. How do I make it stop? Ahhhhhh!

These are suggestions and ideas because the school wants to offer enough for the keenest parent / child! Use the links etc if they suit you, don't if they don't. If you're getting stressed, stop opening the emails. No one will know! (Don't panic what other parents are doing – I know how stressful parent "What's App groups" are!

-X in my child's class has everything done and we've barely started. Will they fall behind?

Every child is different. Usually in school we differentiate to suit a variety of needs... this is more difficult at this time. Give them time. Focus on one or two basic areas you think you could make a difference. They will cover all of these concepts again with their teachers when we return to school.

- I'm not doing any work with my kids. All their doing is Lego, cooking and playing outside.

All of this is learning. Very valuable learning. Give yourself and them a break.

- How can I get three different lots of work done with 3 different kids of different ages?

You can't, stop trying. If they're old enough, try to get them to do little bits independently. Otherwise try to do something they can all engage with, reading a story together, some free writing, baking etc.



My little girl Mabel simply
making a mess!



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“Aim” for....

- A bit of reading every day **“BOOK LOVING SCHOOL!”** (We will be delivering books in the near future to some of you!)
- Some free writing **now and then**. A diary? Talk about a word a day? (My word with my two little girls on Monday was **“compromise!”**)
- Practical hands on maths. Be that via cooking, cleaning, outside or some maths games physical or digital. (MATHLETICS! TT ROCKSTARS!)
- Some fine motor work. Lego, cutting, playdough, tidying up small toys.
- Physical exercise everyday (Mr Gray has sent some great stuff through)
- Some art / music / craft where possible through the week. (Think family karaoke competitions?!)
- Independent Project (for the older kids)
- If younger, lots of imaginative free play, the more independent the better.



You are doing enough. You are loving your kids and supporting them through a difficult time. Look after yourself. Minimising stress is absolutely vital in a time like this for mental health. Accept what you cannot control and try to do something about that which you can. I will be putting together a weekly Achievement Letter. First one out tomorrow! (Friday 27th March) Please do send in any photos / great learning achievements to class teachers / my own email and I will include as many as I can!

Stay safe and take care of each other.

Thank you for your great community spirit, your encouragement and support!

Kind Regards,

Nicky Bridges (Headteacher and mummy to two little girls!)

[Note to parents working at home – it has taken me all day to get this letter written with many interruptions and calls / emails in between.... Take heart! Just do your best!]