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Head Teacher: Mr S Whelerton  
Deputy Head Teacher: Mrs J Boyd

27.03.20

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you and your family are safe and well during this unprecedented time. We also hope that the children are enjoying the tasks that we have set them, whilst having fun and keeping active.

### Keeping in Touch

We are arranging for a member of staff to contact you by the end of next week for a brief catch up to see how you are getting on and hopefully a quick chat with the children, who we are all missing dreadfully! Please do not expect a lengthy parent interview, as this is not the purpose of the contact and the staff want to be able to have the time and opportunity to talk to everyone. We hope that you will respect this and value the opportunity and find it useful.

### Home Learning

We initially set work in the packs we sent out for two weeks. We have plans if the situation continues after the Easter holiday and we intend to post all links on the website- follow the link to class pages to see what the tasks will be, you will receive a text message to confirm that they have been posted. Please note that we are restricted to 160 characters in our text messages. That said, we also feel the waves of stress and that parents may feel overwhelmed and under pressure by everything that's happening and more particularly, the work being sent home for your child.

### Don't worry

Don't worry about your children falling behind. All children work at different rates and there is a wide range of abilities in each class. Children work at different paces and we will take this into consideration when we get back to school. If children could all learn new concepts without specific teaching, we wouldn't need teachers. They will cover all of this again, multiple times and, all children across the world are in the same boat. If you can, our ideal for the children in our school ...

- Reading every day this can be to them, independent, with siblings, or even via audiobook - lots of free links!
- Physical activity
- Writing, stories, comics, diaries, scrap books, poems, even copy writing
- Drawing / painting or arty stuff – cutting, sticking, playdough
- Maths - try to get some in what you do during the day. Practical maths, use cooking, games, counting, measuring, money etc. Cook dinner together, do weights and measures, teach them how to make the best cakes!

You are doing enough. You are loving your children and supporting them through a difficult time. Look after yourself. Minimising stress is vital in a time like this for mental health.

We do not expect children to be working on any of the tasks/activities during what would have been the two weeks Easter Holiday period.



Please be patient with us, as teaching staff, as we are trying to work out what is best for the children. We understand and appreciate that some of the online sites we may have suggested have been overwhelmed and it has been difficult to access them at times. Please keep trying and do not worry if you are unable to access them.

### **Free School Meals**

We are currently providing a packed lunch for children who qualify for FSM. These can still be collected from the main entrance each day between 12.00pm and 1.00pm. Thanks to the kitchen staff who are providing this. We are aware that the government is planning on issuing vouchers in due course and are awaiting an update on this.

### **Messages of Support**

We have all been touched and overwhelmed by the numbers of messages of thanks, support and gratitude that we have received in the past few days from you. It is heart-warming and greatly appreciated by all the staff that you have shown such signs of appreciation for what we are trying to achieve at the moment.

Lastly, we will get through this and we look forward to seeing you all and welcoming you all back to Staindrop Church of England Primary School as soon as possible. Take care and stay safe.

Kind regards,

The staff at Staindrop CE Primary School

