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Part of the Nebula Partnership

Hello,

Now we are back at school if only in a limited capacity I thought I would take the opportunity to catch up with you all. The update from Mrs Best-White explains about how we are currently working, so I don't want to dwell on that aspect too much. All the staff are back and busy in their 'bubbles' but we are committed to still supporting your child if they are at home.

It is funny to think we are in the last half term of the year, with what is usually the busiest with sports days, trips and productions. After the government have changed their mind about getting all children back into school before the summer it would be easy to start relaxing a little and think it is nearly summer (although the current weather says something different). However it will be a long time until some of the children will be back in school and then we are still unsure of what that will look like, so we really do need them to keep engaged with key learning as much as possible. Even if it is just what we would expect completed each week for 'normal' homework, then that will ensure they are practising the key skills in reading to develop vocabulary and fluency, comprehension, maths (times tables!!!!) and spellings, punctuation and grammar. **These are the key skills which children need in order to progress.**

The whole home learning 'thing' has certainly been a challenge for us. It is a very unnatural way for teachers to work, but I honestly feel we have done well compared with large parts of the country. As teachers we spend our time planning activities to achieve a specific learning goal for each child or group. We come up with interesting and hopefully engaging ideas, which are perfect on paper.... Then we introduce them to the class and the whole plan changes!

While in class teachers spend their time introducing ideas, then continuously adapting them to the reaction of the class, making it more challenging or simplifying it, even cutting it short and having to have a complete rethink another day. Each day some children are raring to go, some tired and need a boost, some just a bit low for whatever reason. With some the learning just 'clicks' straight away, while others need it working through a few different ways until we find what works. Teachers will notice these things and adapt



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the learning accordingly, creating extra element to maintain interests and allow a child to delve into a topic further or adding in a layer of support to enable success. This is what we are trained to do. However without the children in front of us we are not able to do all the adapting necessary to make things work like we are used to and this is where the challenge has been handed over to you.

As 'home school' teachers we appreciate you are faced with a whole different set of challenges and from conversations myself and staff have had with you know often you have been out of your comfort zone and have questioned your ability and even shed tears over it. All the staff here want to say we think you are doing a great job and the conversations that we have had with you, show how much you care about your children's education.

The main thing we would say is as I mentioned above encourage at least the key learning skills to be practised, to help them come back feeling confident and able to access the learning we will be planning next year. We would love them to engage with all the activities we are setting and even work independently to share their own interests and ideas, but we know all families and children are different and we do not want the home learning to be a battle and a point of conflict within families. Calling it a day at times is the right thing and remember every day is different, for no reason some days will be easier than others. You know your child best, so you are the best person to judge what is good to do each day. Please do upload anything you do to the learning app your child uses (Seesaw/Tapestry). This can be activities from the week or anything else interesting that you have been doing. The teachers really love to see what the children are up to. It gives us the opportunity to connect with the children and feedback, which I know lots of the children have enjoyed and felt more encouraged and motivated by.

We also appreciate more of you are going back to work and maybe having less time to devote the home learning so routines and timetables may have to change as work time increases. Most importantly of all, please remember that every little thing you can do is worthwhile. Keep going we really appreciate you. If there is anything you need support with, please use us and if you think your child would like a call from their teacher or me, let us know and we will be happy to chat.

Take care,

Gyles.



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