



Dear Parents and Carers,

I'm not going to beat around the bush- it's been a challenging week for everyone. This week staff have had a steady influx of emails from parents who are struggling in one way or another with what can seem like an impossible job at times, especially when you are trying to combine it with caring for younger siblings, supervising older siblings, trying to carry out your actual job, trying to keep the house running...I could go on. Please know that you are not alone; it is not just you, and it is very normal for children to reach a point when they have just had enough, or to have an `off-day` when they are put in this situation. Home is normally their place to hang out and let it all hang out. It's not surprising therefore that they reach a point where they rebel against the unusual circumstances. Take an hour or so for everyone to calm down and unwind; recognise that no one is simply being awkward- we are all just in a very difficult situation. Drop us a line if you need to, but often the problem will be resolved with a bit of space, or an acceptance that we are in an imperfect situation and are all doing the best we can....I can reassure you that the Loader household has been extremely fraught on several occasions this week. There have been tears, some of them mine!

A massive thank you for the excellent attendance we have had with the new schedules of Zoom meetings, particularly in KS2. The feedback continues to be very positive with children welcoming the chance to check in with their peers and teachers, ask questions, and have tasks explained; and parents feeling that they are no longer tasked with having to explain lessons to the same extent. Equally, there has been a good amount of learning posted on Tapestry. For the ease of the teachers accessing this, can I ask that you group the work rather than posting each piece individually- for example, if you want to submit it daily, put the work in one post rather than a separate post for each lesson.

As we are using Zoom so much, I would also like to remind you of the things we have said concerning safeguarding. Please ensure that there is an adult in the same room as the child. Children should be dressed and the meeting should not be taking place in a bedroom. Teachers have spoken to children this week about not posting chat when they should be listening to presentations- I think Year 6 were a bit shocked when I told them that the host can see all the chat. I also pointed out in the assembly this morning, that several members of staff, including myself, are parents so we can see exactly what is going on behind the scenes!! Having said all this, there has been a lovely atmosphere on the Zoom meetings I have either held or seen; the teachers have done a great job in adapting so quickly and there have been some very whizzy things happening in school with teachers trying out new ways of filming themselves.

As last week, I would like to wish you a weekend where you forget the home schooling, and try and do something that you all enjoy, possibly not involving a screen. We will continue to support each other as much as we can.



Warmest wishes,

Rebecca Loader

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