Hello Parents,

Today I just wanted to get a little message to you all.

I imagine you are all facing your own challenges at home at the moment, whether this is at times lack of motivation or concentration from your child when it comes to their ‘school work’, juggling work commitments, while trying to cook meals and keep the house running, as well as looking after yourselves and others too.

However things are for you at the moment, I just want to remind you, that each and every one of you are doing an amazing job. Don’t be too hard on yourselves or your child, or compare what you are doing to others, or feel downhearted if things are not going to plan. Remember these are not normal times, and I would only encourage you to do what you can, and that is more than enough.

In regards to home learning, I understand even with remote help from me and the online learning page that this is not easy. The limitation in temporary home schooling is that it simply isn't school. The children are used to the school environment and will not have the same learnt focus when they are at home, especially where ‘home’ is a completely different place for them in so many ways right now. The children are missing their friends and the socialisation, and they are used to bouncing their ideas off of one another for their learning.

So my advice to you is please do not worry, every day is a new day, celebrate those tiny victories, remember to take frequent breaks, change things up, don’t always work at a table, lie down instead on your tummies on the floor, choose another room of the house to work in…go off plan, be led by your child, there is learning to be found in everything!

Below I have attached a little something I read that I feel is a perfect way of reminding us all of perspective right now, that I thought I would share.

A conversation between a child and their Grandad in 2095...

Child - How old are you Grandad?

Grandad - I'm 81

Child - So does that mean you were alive during the Coronavirus?

Grandad - Yes I was.

Child - Wow. That must have been horrible Grandad. We were learning about that at school this week.

They told us about how all the schools had closed. And mum's and dads couldn't go to work so didn't have as much money to do nice things. They said that u weren't allowed to go and visit your friends and family and couldn't go out anywhere. They told us that the shops ran out of lots of things so you didn't have much bread, and flour, and toilet roll 'child giggles'. They said that summer holidays were cancelled. And they told us about all those thousands of people that got very poorly and who died. They explained about the NHS and how hard all the doctors and nurses and all NHS workers worked, and that lots of them died too.

That must have been so horrible Grandad.

Grandad - Well, that is all correct. And I know that because I read about it when I was older. But to tell you the truth I remember it differently...

I remember playing in the garden for hours with mum and dad and having picnics outside and lots of BBQ’s. I remember making things with my Dad and baking with my Mum. I remember making dens with my little brother and teaching him how to do hand stands and back flips. I remember having quality time with my family. I remember mum's favourite words becoming 'Hey, I've got an idea...' Rather than 'Maybe later or tomorrow I’m a bit busy'. I remember making our own bread and pastry. I remember having film night 3 or 4 times a week instead of just one.

It was a horrible time for lots of people you are right. But I remember it differently.

Remember how our children will remember these times. Be in control of the memories they are creating right now, so that through all the awful headlines and emotional stories for so many, that they will come to read in future years, they can remember the happy times.

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Please do not hesitate in contacting me via the school office email if needed.

Sending my love and best wishes to you all

Miss Nicholson 27.4.20