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Stradbroke Primary School
Learning for Life!



29th January 2021

Thank you for everything you are doing and continue to do!

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we approach the end of the first month of lockdown, I felt the need to write to you all to thank you for your continued support and cooperation. I know many of you are juggling supporting your children with their remote learning alongside your own work commitments, or in some cases, managing multiple children whilst trying to balance out every other demand that life may throw at you. The effort that lots of you are going to, ensuring that your children are engaging in their home learning during these difficult circumstances is very much commended and appreciated by all of us here at school. The quality of some of the learning the children are returning is outstanding, and you should all be very proud of your children and your own efforts.

In the last eleven months, children have only been in school properly for a very short amount of time; around thirteen weeks, and for some of those there was interruption through self-isolation. Therefore, understandably, there will be gaps starting to appear in children's knowledge. The teachers and staff are trying their best to set learning to support these gaps, whilst also trying to facilitate progress, revising key concepts and providing a varied diet of learning from the wider curriculum in order to try and stop them falling further behind. As you can imagine, this is not an easy task. At the same time, we are under no illusions that you can all instantly replace the role of a class teacher at home with the various other pressures people are under. Nobody is pretending that this is an easy task you have been thrust into undertaking without any training, yet again. Many of the staff here are parents ourselves and are experiencing this too... it's really hard! You are not alone in this, you are doing your best, and you just need to keep doing your best for a little longer.

As many of you will be aware, the Prime Minister has announced this week that schools will continue to function as they are at present for longer than first anticipated, with March 8th being muted as a 'potential' return date, if other factors go as planned. I am sure that many of you have mixed feelings about this announcement. We would love to see things return to normal as quickly as possible, however, in the same week that the sobering landmark of 100,000 deaths from Covid-19 has been surpassed in the country, it is a very blunt reminder of why we need to continue to limit access to schools, as we have so far. By no means is this thing nearly over, and we must continue to play our part and follow the guidance, as difficult as it might feel at this moment in time. Your resilience, your determination and your selflessness will contribute to that end when it finally arrives. Until that time, thank you again, from everybody at Stradbroke.

Best Wishes,

John Sitch
Headteacher