



Friday 27th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you and your families safe and well? It has been a week like no other, and I'm sure that it's not just me who is finding it difficult to adjust to the new Government guidelines and new routines at home.

Of our four schools, only Barton and East Cowton Schools are still open for a very small group of key worker children. Our staff are proud to be able to support those parents whose jobs are critical to the Covid-19 response. We know that all our children are missing their friends, and many are trying to keep in touch online – we would encourage them to continue to look out for each other at this time.

The staff are also really missing the children, but they have thoroughly enjoyed seeing all your posts on Class Dojo, it's lovely to see the many creative things you've been up to, and to see the children relaxed and well, enjoying their home-learning, and enjoying being outside in the sunshine.

As you know, staff have sent out learning packs to every child. Our main priority however is the well-being of our children and parents. Some families have done a lot of the work in the packs, and others have done a small amount and then found different ways to occupy their time. Please don't feel under any pressure to complete pages and pages of work, we would love the children to keep their brains ticking over and complete some of it, but if they don't want to engage please don't battle over it, we don't want to cause any undue stress to anyone. I have attached a letter from Compass Buzz, the School Mental Health project. You will find lots of useful advice here to support you with dealing with the anxiety and uncertainty that we are all living with.

We know that many of our families have found that their lives have been turned upside down this week and they are facing many new challenges. Miss Crisp and I have been very busy trying to catch up with some of our families this week, to check they are ok, and to find out whether those who have been self-isolating for a while are in need of anything. We are working on ways that we can support if you need it. Should you or a family member become unwell and need to self-isolate, please do let us know, preferably through the school email address and we will do our best to keep in touch and help out.

Keep yourselves and your families safe.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs H Dudman
Headteacher

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