



Orchard Community Primary School

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27.1.21

Dear parents/carers,

I just want to tell you how incredibly well you and your children are doing.

Many of you as parents and carers have been given a huge task, helping your child with their remote learning alongside your own work schedules, and we want to say 'Thank You'.

For many families, home learning fatigue will be kicking in and we know that many of you will be feeling the strain this week. Staff at Orchard are parents too and like you, we're juggling life, work and home learning along with all of the other challenges the pandemic is throwing at us. We want to tell you that we totally get it and that we're here to support you as best we can.

We know that family life will be tough at the moment. Whilst we set the learning tasks, you must therefore choose what suits your personal circumstances. We appreciate that each family has a different context and differing needs. Our remote learning provision therefore needs to meet these needs, and must be sustainable.

Please don't let school work put extra pressure on you and your family. Just do what you can - most importantly, do what's best for you, your child/children and your whole family. Mental health and well-being of all must come first. If the remote learning is getting too much, leave it. If your child needs a well-being day, let them have some 'time-out' to cook, play with Lego, paint their nails, (paint dad's toe nails !), create a Tik Tok video, kick a football around in the garden ... whatever makes them happy!

Staff are working incredibly hard to adapt and adjust to new ways of working and it has been wonderful to see all of the adults at Orchard working so collaboratively, and with such commitment. Like you, they are working tirelessly to get the children through this. However, if we could open the doors to welcome every child back safely right now, then we absolutely would – we miss your children so much. In the meantime, we will continue to do everything we can to ensure that your children, as well as the eighty-seven pupils that are learning in school, are given the best education possible.

And to the parents whose children *are* in school – thank you for having faith in us. We're so pleased that we can support you as critical workers.

You are all a wonderful group of parents, and we are very lucky to be able to work so positively with you and your children. Keep in touch and if we can do anything more to support you then please let us know.

Stay safe and rest assured that you are doing a great job.

Kind Regards

Fiona Shields - Headteacher

