



Stanhope Barrington C of E  
Primary School

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1<sup>st</sup> April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

### Re: Home schooling

I am writing on behalf of our governing body, senior leadership team and teaching team to try to alleviate the pressure parents are feeling about home schooling.

We have had a number of calls to school and I know there is significant activity on social media regarding home schooling and the pressure parents are feeling to educate their children and I am therefore hoping that this letter will go some way to reassure you all.

At the current time children have only been out of school for one week and three days. However, anxious, uncertain or afraid of the current situation we as adults are feeling – we need to triple that for how our children will be feeling. Our children will not be in the right state of mind to learn, focus or concentrate. What they need right now is our love, support and reassurance.

As school leaders we are not expecting you to home school your child in the same way they would learn at school. This is an amazing opportunity to spend some quality time with them, bake, sort out the garden, dust off the old board games we played when we were young, read with them and do some lovely shared activities.

I know parents are concerned that their child will 'fall behind'. Can I be categorically clear that this is not our concern at all at the moment. Our concern is the pressure everyone is under, the emotional impact and impact on everyone's mental health at this very strange and challenging time.

We are professional, qualified educators and we are not worried about children 'falling behind'. So long as you keep them active and keep their brains working with activities and don't let them sit in front of a screen for the next three months – all will be good. Trust that we are at this very moment organising contingency plans for when the school reopens and will have an action plan for the children's return to school.

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I understand that it is easy to see what others are doing on social media and question yourself but please trust us, trust our advice and at the moment just love them, cuddle them, reassure them and do some great activities together – such as the weekly Head Teacher Challenge. Check out our Emotional Well-being area of the website and do some of the activities suggested there.

Please don't compare yourself to what other parents or other schools are doing. We know our children, we know our teaching team and we know that what will get us all through this is our family ethos, our Christian values and our supportive culture.

If anyone has any concerns whatsoever about home schooling please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Mr Myers at school.

Yours sincerely

Mrs D Cross  
Deputy Head Teacher