

**BOLNEY C.E.P. SCHOOL**

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**Headteacher: Mrs Lorraine Kenny, BEd Hons, NPQH**

**Dear parents,**

**As we near towards the half-term break, we feel it is important and fair to recognise that there is an unsurprising sense of tiredness in our school community and want to try and reassure you that this is to be expected.**

**Children are tired – different routines, later nights, longer hours of daylight and adjusting to the ‘new normal’ will all have taken its toll and we are sensing they are ready for a rest and a chance to re-charge, ready for the next half term.**

**Parents are tired – an increased, and perhaps at times overwhelming, sense of responsibility in terms of ‘am I doing the right thing’ for my child. Planning and agreeing what home learning happens when and where and providing this support for children in addition to the everyday: cooking, shopping, cleaning, working, caring for others – all of this whilst being fully aware of the unprecedented time we are living in and all the associated uncertainties.**

**Staff are tired - over the past week staff, and governors, have been working tirelessly on planning and risk assessing ahead of the potential phased return to school from June 1st and these will be shared with you as soon as possible, later this week. Teachers have continued to provide stimulus for remote learning in addition to working in school and keeping in touch with families via emails.**

**I think it is only fair to recognise that we are all in this storm together but sailing in different boats. We should not judge or compare with other families because the focus should be on what works for you. Find what works, and adjust where necessary, but keep focused on doing what works for you and your family. We have said all along that the mental wellbeing of our children, families and staff is our priority. If a child is unhappy they will not learn and they will not thrive.**

**Here follows some ideas and suggestions should you feel that you need to take a different approach after half term but please keep in touch with staff - we are here to help, and support, you in your role as parent and teacher.**

**We wish you all a restful, enjoyable and happy half term.**

**Kind regards,**

**Lorraine Kenny Sarah Harvey**

**Headteacher**

**How to make home learning work for your family**

We’re realistic about what pupils will be able to do during this period, and we want you to be too.

**You're not expected to become teachers** and your children aren't expected to learn as they do in school. Simply providing them with some structure at home will help them to adapt.

The following tips are designed to help you create a positive learning environment at home. See what works best for your household.

**- Create and stick to a routine if you can. This is what children are used to.** For example, eat breakfast at the same time and make sure they're dressed before starting the ‘school’ day – avoid staying in pyjamas!

**- Involve your children in setting the timetable where possible.** It’s a great opportunity for them to manage their own time better and it’ll give them ownership

**- Check in with your children and try to keep to the timetable, but be flexible.** If a task/activity is going well or they want more time, let it extend where possible equally if it isn’t going well – let them stop and return to it at a later time.

**- If you have more than 1 child at home, consider combining their timetables. For example, they might exercise and do maths together – see what works for your household**

**- Designate a working space if possible, and at the end of the day have a clear cut-off to signal school time is over**

**- Stick the timetable up on the wall** so everyone knows what they should be doing when, and tick activities off throughout the day

**- Take stock at the end of each week.** What's working and what isn't? Ask your children, involve them too

**- Distinguish between weekdays and weekends, to separate school life and home life**

**- Give them chores** to do so they feel more responsible about the daily routine at home

- Ask them to **help you cook** and bake

- Accept that **they'll probably watch more TV/spend time on their phone** – that's ok but you might want to set/agree some screen time limits

Please don’t worry about your children getting behind with learning. Everyone’s in the same boat, and when things get back to ‘normal’ we will work with where your child is at in their stage of learning to continue their education.