Dear Parents,

Well, it’s not been quite the return to school that we expected after Christmas! Yet here we all are in Lockdown 3, with a sudden move to remote learning and what an adjustment that is!

I write as both a parent and as the Chair of Governors when I extend my thanks and gratitude to all the teachers and staff at school who worked with minimum notice to organise the online learning.

For those of us at home supporting our children with their learning, we certainly recognise the skills, patience and incredible aptitude that our teachers demonstrate every day. The teachers have spent hours putting together things to send home and they have done, and continue to do their very best. They are working long hours and undertaking work outside of their comfort zones to video record content to enable as much remote learning as possible. The planning, preparation and pre-records are highly time consuming. We thank them for their amazing commitment and care for the pupils at Carclaze School.

School staff also continue to put themselves at risk of COVID transmission in this global pandemic, so please, join me in thanking them and recognising that their efforts are going beyond what is called for under normal circumstances. On that note please can I implore each of you to really consider your eligibility for “critical key worker” places at school. The spirit of the school provision is to provide care/supervision for children whose parents are key workers (away from the home). If you are working from home, then as difficult as it may be to work and support your children’s remote learning, please really consider whether you require an essential place at school. The situation is ever changing at the moment and this may impact on the number of spaces we can offer.

For those of you with children of different ages at home, you may well ask how you can get three different lots of work done with three children of different ages/abilities. As a parent of three children of varying ages myself, the short answer is you can’t! If they’re old enough, try to get them to do some bits independently, otherwise try something they can all engage with. If you’re trying to do this and also juggling working from home, realise that is an impossible ask and adjust your expectations. Please make contact with your children’s teachers if you need some support or you need to someone to talk to. Please don’t feel alone at all.

You **are** doing enough. You are loving the children in your care and supporting them through the most difficult circumstances. Look after yourself. Minimise stress as much as possible at this time to protect your own health; please don’t let remote learning be the something that stresses you out. Please accept what is in your circle of control - as the primary educator at the moment, this is your call. The school make the provision of resources and the framework/structure to the lessons, it is really up to you how best your individual situation lends itself to supporting the home learning. Some days will be better than others and that is absolutely OK. The school will continue to build on the provision and fix any teething problems as we go along.

These are exceptionally difficult times. We are all doing our bit to get through the best that we can. I wish you all continued good health and welcome any communication for the Governing Body via the office email address below.

secretary@carclazesch.org

Very best wishes,

Helen Knight (Chair of Governors)