

Never look down on anybody unless you are helping him up. Jesse Jackson



Barley Lane School

Friendship, Optimism, Hardwork

26th January 2021

Dear parents and carers and colleagues, governors and supporting professionals,

We hope patterns and rhythms of schooling both here on site and at home are bedding in for everyone and that precious contact between parents and carers and their child's teacher and learning support assistant is happening freely and frequently? Relationships are vital to our work in school and so they are even more important when the effort is to support learning at home.

Routines are critical to our children and young people and they don't have to be complicated and simple is better so if you can (and we know it's challenging) establish bed-times and food time at home and also work-time and down -time just as we do in school and as I will return to later quality beats quantity and short bursts of good learning the goal and any attempt at learning that leads to conflict and upset at home during lockdown we must question its worth and usefulness?

For children at home all the time it is essential they speak and engage directly with their teachers and that their wellbeing is supported: it can lead to a doorstep visit (many families like and prefer this more human model) or in some cases a formal welfare check if we can't reliably establish everyone at home is okay.

Remote learning for our children must be personalized as it is in school and be pragmatically negotiated and agreed and above all it must actually work for children and families and just as last year we want to reinforce a few things: that quality beats quantity so less work done reliably well is better than battling and falling out; that helping at home with practical tasks and projects like cooking and decorating has proven really worthwhile and fun; that laptops are available as are on-line lessons but we all need to be vigilant about safety on-line; as Ofsted has pointed out on-line working is not the "gold standard" and for some children books and worksheets work better and "whatever works" must be the mantra.

Exploring with your child and your child's teacher what actually works best for you to keep safe and keep learning is the key activity; that team-working that conversation between home and school to share and solve problems together and make the best of a very imperfect situation.

Michael

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