

2nd April 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

I hope that you and your family are well. I would like to thank each and every one of you from the bottom of my heart for following the government and school advice and for trusting that we are making the right decisions for you, your child and our staff.

Our expectations for learning at home

Although we have e mailed learning packs and will continue to do so, there are no expectations from school about what you do or don't do. These are very unusual and unprecedented times.

Please remember:

- Our children might be scared at the moment. They see and hear a lot, even when they think we don't.
- Their routines and structures are disrupted. They will feel tension and anxiety from the adults around them. It is a completely new situation for us all.
- Children may expect the weeks ahead to feel like the summer holidays; we know that they will feel very different.
- They may react to this by changing their behaviours and showing behaviours you have never seen from them before. This might be difficult for you and your family but it is natural and to be expected.
- Your child just needs these feelings to be acknowledged and to be reassured that you understand because life is a bit less predictable at the moment.

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Under these circumstances, home learning may well add to this anxiety and stress - for them and for you. In that case, leave it. Your child needs to be reassured, comforted, loved and feel secure more than they need to be learning.

So, please don't argue and fall out about any of the learning ideas we have sent home or provided. Instead watch a film, share a book, bake and cook, paint, create and make things. Play board games. Do science experiments. Travel the world via Google maps. Go on virtual tours of zoos.

However, a learning routine may be exactly what your child needs and we are here to support that. Your child may thrive on structure and routine and may get bored or anxious about not learning.

Your child might be both of these types of children: most children are! Follow their lead and use your instinct and you won't go far wrong. Don't worry about their academic progress. Every child is in the same boat at the moment.

When we get back to school, after celebrating being back together again, we will pick up from where we left off and meet your child's needs like we always do. That's our job.

So, use the learning resources - or don't. Try to have fun spending time together. Your child's emotional and mental wellbeing - and yours - is far more important than anything else. How they felt during this time will stay with them for the rest of their lives, far longer than any worksheet or online task.



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Ofsted

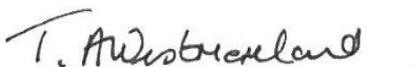
- Many of you thought that our Hope House School Ofsted report had been made public several weeks ago. However, this was for the **Residential** facility **only**.
- The Ofsted report for Hope House School was due to be published 2 weeks ago, however due to the COVID-19 outbreak they decided not to publish any reports.
- Ofsted have now agreed that this report can be shared with parents. This was sent out yesterday via e mail from Julie.hilton@hopehouseschool.co.uk Please can you acknowledge receipt of this? If you require a paper copy, please let her know and one will be posted out to you.
- An action plan was immediately put into place and all issues have now been dealt with.

Keeping in touch

We will continue to send out information via e mail. Please can you acknowledge receipt as it reassures us to know that we're still in touch and can support you wherever possible. If you have any concerns that you wish to discuss you can e mail:- Julie.hilton@hopehouseschool.co.uk and she will phone you back if necessary.

For any queries regarding learning packs, please e mail:-
anna.owcza@hopehouseschool.co.uk.

Yours sincerely



Principal and Founder



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