

31<sup>st</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Thank you for all your support at this extremely challenging time for all of us. Lots of people are feeling overwhelmed and under many pressures from everything that is happening. This includes worries about the work being set at home for your child. As leaders of the Celtic Cross Education we wanted to offer you some thoughts and perspectives on the situation and, we hope, to lessen some of the pressures you may be feeling about supporting learning at home.

Things to consider:

- 1) This is not home-schooling. This is an unprecedented emergency situation impacting on the whole world. Home-schooling is a considered choice where you prepare and plan before you take on the role of your child's teacher in whatever form you choose. This is, at best, distance learning. In reality, we are all learning together in this ever-changing climate.
- 2) You are, and always have been, your child's primary educator. If you decide that your child is not going to engage on any particular day with the work set by their teachers and they would prefer to be playing, baking, or being creative, then that is your choice. That is your right. There is nothing to feel guilty about.
- 3) Schools had very little notice, little preparation time and we were NOT told to 'continue to plan full lessons as normal and just send them home' – that is NOT possible. Distance learning needs a lot of preparation over an extended period.
- 4) It is not possible to facilitate distance learning with a primary aged child and work-from-home at the same time. If you are trying to do that, please stop now for your own sanity. You can certainly have activities where your child learns, but your focus is your job, and survival. Again, these are unprecedented times so don't feel guilty.
- 5) There have been concerns raised by many, about not wanting children to fall behind. Even if everything were equal in terms of support, time and number of children (which it is not) all children learn at different rates. In every class there is a wide range of levels in all subjects, there are different paces and there are many children working on differentiated levels of work. It is almost impossible for teachers to differentiate, as skilled as they are, at the moment, so you do not have to do it either. Your child will not fall behind. We are extremely lucky that across our schools we have hugely dedicated teachers, who are thinking very carefully about what work is sent home through various platforms. In the main, this is revision and reminder work. If children could all learn new concepts without specific teaching, we wouldn't need teachers. They will cover all of this work again, multiple times.

**Celtic Cross Education**

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6) Remember all learning is valuable. Building Lego, cooking, reading a story together, playing outside, playing board games, writing a letter to a grandparent/family they can't see is all learning and relevant to our current situations.

7) During the next two weeks, which would have been the Easter holidays, teachers will not post any specific activities. However, from 14th April and the notional start of the summer term, activities, ideas, games, challenges and specific tasks will be posted on websites and/or shared via Class Dojo. (We will explain how to use Class Dojo for the parents whose schools are new to this software/App). We feel it is important to have a break and spend time with the family, if possible, without the necessity to complete academic schoolwork on a daily basis.

Please do not worry that you are not giving them the best. You are doing what they need. You are loving your children, spending time with them and supporting them through a difficult time. Look after yourselves and each other. Stay safe. Stay well. Stay Strong.

Yours sincerely

Stuart Renshaw  
Chief Executive Officer

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