

Dear Parents



I was recently shown what I think people refer to as a 'meme'. It showed an image of a rather frazzled individual with the caption, 'What a year this week has been!' A week ago life was continuing in a relatively normal fashion, now it most certainly is not. We are all learning to adjust mentally and physically to our new living arrangements and should be mindful of the emotional well-being of our nearest and dearest.

I'd like to reassure you about the work that has been handed out and also placed on the school website. Although I'm sure many of you will wish to create an element of structure throughout the day and keep children engaged in a variety of activities, there are no expectations on what you achieve academically. In the nicest possible way, you are not 'home educators'. Parents who home educate plan and prepare to do so – you certainly didn't have time to do either. Nor are you a teacher who has received extensive training and gained years of experience/knowledge. The packs sent home are aimed at the average child in a year group and given by teachers who had no time to prepare anything else. They were given in acknowledgement of the fact many families don't have a printer. If your child is finding work difficult, don't worry and move on to something else. There are lots and lots of ideas popping up in social media, many of which you have been signposted to on our website. Daily PE lessons, online zoo visits, keeping a daily diary, reading to each other and listening to online stories to name a few.

There was a thought only four days ago that staff would be able to continue going to school to prepare/print further work to be collected. This is clearly no longer an option. Teachers will continue to place any good ideas on the website.

To make sure I'm absolutely clear – nothing is more important than looking after your family's wellbeing. If any activity you are engaging with is causing unhappiness, leave it and move on to something else.

We now have a drastically reduced workforce trying to provide for children at Camelford Primary School. As the message on the website says, this is now only for children where both parents are essential key workers. It should only be used as an absolute last resort – it is far from a safe environment (virus related)! If you feel you need it, make contact via email as previously directed. Thinking of you all during this extraordinary time.

Enjoy the sunshine while we have it.

Kindest regards
Helen Ward