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Dear Parents,

As we launch into another week I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what you have all achieved so far and to remind you to be kind to yourselves as we face the half-term ahead.

So many of you put your children to bed on Monday night, assuming they would be in school in the morning, only to have all plans thrown upside down! Somehow, everyone, including your amazing children have managed to get up on Tuesday morning and get on with it. I really do applaud you all.

We all want the very best for children's learning. I know many of you will be concerned about the impact another closure will have. The important thing to remember is that slaving for hours when you are all struggling will not help you or them. You know yourself and your children best, and when teachers plan, they do not know if it is going to be a tricky day for you, so please don't feel bad about being selective. We know many of you are juggling work yourselves or are finding the lockdown situation really difficult, therefore you need to adjust to allow you all to cope.

Teachers will usually to plan Maths, English and one or two other activities daily. (This may vary depending on how they work the timetable.) There may be days when you fly through activities and others where you spend a couple of hours on a piece of writing, both are ok.

Our plans reflect the curriculum we teach so there should be a balance, this will hopefully help. We all thrive on some form of structure, for some of you this will mean following the timetable as we set it but others will need to different activities at different times.

The key skills we work on every day are:

- Reading - being read to as well as reading them reading to you
- Number talk and counting - this could be estimating how much pasta for dinner or which jar they think holds the most and why as well as practising skills like times tables

Along with all of this trying to limit the time on screen and getting out and getting some fresh air will of course help you all, if you want to join Joe Wicks in the morning, even better!

My message is not give up every time things get hard. At school, adults will always try their best to respond to children's current emotional state. Some days that will mean stepping back and giving them space, other days that will be giving them more of a push and encouraging them to persevere. Children do need to be challenged and work hard.

None of this is said to patronise parents at all, you did a fantastic job before and you will do again. But we know the second time around (if not third or fourth if you have had to self-isolate!) must feel harder, especially in the depths of winter. So this is just a reminder to be kind to yourselves, we all need that sometimes and if you need anything at all please let us know.

With very best wishes to you all,
Mrs Jennie Müller
Headteacher