Tuesday 14th April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Hello everyone, it might sound a bit strange but welcome back to the start of the summer term, in the most extraordinary of circumstances.

We really miss our daily contact with you and the children and will try to keep in touch in as many ways as we are able. We are still very much partners in your child’s education and will keep you updated and stay in contact with you as best we possibly can.

**Keep in Touch**

What we would really like to happen this week is for you to get in touch with your child’s teacher. We have heard from lots of children but not from all of them, maybe people don’t want to bother us or are finding it difficult with the technology to connect – the thing is we are not sure!

So, in whatever way you can, please contact us this week - a photo of your child with some of their learning or a photo of them happily playing in the sunshine would be so marvellous to receive. If we don’t hear from you, your child’s teacher will give you a call to see if there is anything we can do to help, as staying in touch is so important for us all whilst we are apart.

We are also looking for photos and news for the ‘Learning at Home’ newsletter, which is going to be our weekly letter to the children. It’s attached to this ParentMail, so please can you show this to your child and read the message, send in any great ideas for sharing in the weeks ahead too.

**Learning at Home**

On the Federation website’s ‘Learning at Home’ tab [www.stokehill.devon.sch.uk](http://www.stokehill.devon.sch.uk) there will be activities to help your child continue learning each week. Please remember, these are a guide, the main thing is that your child is happy, relaxed and enthusiastic about whatever learning you have the time and resources to do.

Please don’t make ‘learning’ a battle – when we get back together we will all have the time we need to re-adjust and get on with the school year again.

The Federation’s website contains some useful information and resources to help you talk to your child about the coronavirus. You can find these here: <https://www.stokehill.devon.sch.uk/web/talking_to_your_child_about_coronavirus/466518>

plus a simple coronavirus social story’ is attached.

The government have put together a list of websites where you can access further free resources <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-online-education-resources-for-home-education>

Many people have found a daily routine is helpful for their child, with time set aside for playing and relaxing, exercise and learning. Your child’s teacher is happy to talk to you individually if you would like some ideas about how to set this up for your child, please – just e-mail them or leave us a message on the school answerphone and we will get back to you.

If there is anything we can provide you with at home, please let us know, we can’t ship the classroom out to you but if there are items that you’d find really useful we will do our very best to get them to you if we can. Please, please, LET US KNOW! E-mail into the office [infant.admin@stokehill.devon.sch.uk](mailto:infant.admin@stokehill.devon.sch.uk) or e-mail me [sarah.mackay@stokehill.devon.sch.uk](mailto:sarah.mackay@stokehill.devon.sch.uk)

With kind regards from us all, thinking of you and working remotely,

~ take care, stay safe,

Sarah Mackay

Attached:

* A simple coronavirus ‘social story’
* Learning at Home Letter for your child

**Useful numbers**

Exeter City Council have set up a telephone and online Wellbeing Hotline. They are using this to gather information from people who want to offer their help and support to the community, and then sharing this with individuals who need information about the support on offer. You can visit www.exeter.gov.uk/wellbeing or call 01392 265000. The following numbers may also be helpful to you or to your neighbours and friends as you support them through this difficult time:

Childline: 0800 1111

Samaritans: 116 123

Domestic Violence Hotline: 0808 2000 247

Mind: 0300 123 3393

Age UK: 0800 169 6565