

20<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

The last time I wrote to you we were approaching the two weeks of the Easter holiday where many of you would have been taking time out to spend with your families. We have never had to face times like these, and I am sure many of you have thoroughly enjoyed the extended time with your families: particularly as it has been sunny and warm!

In some households, this will be a well structured time, calm and supportive, free from anxiety and at peace with one another. However, if its anything like my home with two teenage stepchildren who are not convinced that they need to do anything structured or get up before the afternoon, it can become chaotic, overbearing and driving the adults to desperation. And for some of you, who may be working from home, this may create a very challenging home life!

So what can be done? All of our schools across the trust are providing opportunities for the children to access school-related work that they can have-a-go at and engage with. We are very keen to emphasise that this should not become a wedge that is driven between the adults and the children. In such a harrowing and unsettling time, love and family bonding should be the most important thing that happens. We would encourage you to play games, engage in treasure hunts, cook, read, draw, play an instrument... but most importantly, laugh, smile and engage.

Some of the children will crave to have a structured day and enjoy having work set by their teachers, and this should be encouraged. If you are finding that your child/ren require more than is currently on offer, please do get in touch with their teacher and chat through what can be done to support them. Remember, we do understand that access to the internet and a device may not be an option for some families, so these activities are optional.

I would also like to thank all of our Heads of School and staff who are keeping the schools open during this time and supporting our most vulnerable children and allowing critical workers to keep the NHS working and the country operating. Wherever possible staff are in rotas to be in their own school or in a hub school, supporting the children. Despite the concerns of leaving their protected homes, they are willing to support our children and tribute should be made to them: so thank you.

I am not going to speculate about the re-opening of schools. I hope this is a coordinated approach across Cornwall and all schools work together to make a return consistent. What I do know, is that we are in this for the foreseeable future and that is most likely to be for an extended time. The most important thing is for you and your children to be well, you remain safe and stay within the confines of your homes. I really hope that we never experience anything like this again in our lifetimes, but while we have our precious ones at home do let us enjoy the time, talk to them, engage with them and most important share the love for one another.

Best wishes, stay safe and stay well.



Stuart Renshaw -Chief Executive Officer

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