

27 January 2021

Dear Parent and Carers,

I am writing to you to reassure you and thank you all for the amazing job you are doing supporting your children's home learning. We are under no illusions that this is very hard for so many of you. Lots of you are juggling your own jobs and supporting your child with work.

Many of you just find the whole thing baffling and are struggling to get up to speed with new technology and the "new" ways we teach things. So many of the staff at St Bede's are mums to primary age children and have expressed how stressful it is to home school their own children – and they have teaching degrees!

Times are tough at the moment and mental health is really becoming a problem. The long, dark and cold nights are certainly not helping.

Most of you are engaging with school in an amazing way and the children are able to take part in lessons delivered by their teacher. Thank you so much for all the amazing work you are completing with them. I know that you all want the best for your children and we know that the vast majority of you are trying your best in really hard situations.

If you are doing your best and if the children are doing their very best, we are happy. You are not teachers and it is not home school - it is home learning. We do not and cannot expect you to be their teachers.

Next week is children's mental health week. Your children will move away from their usual timetable and be asked to complete tasks, challenges and activities that will be fun, healthy, engaging and creative.

We are all surviving this pandemic, things do not have to be perfect. We know that our pupils are safe, loved and cared for. That is the most important thing at the moment.

We know that everyone's circumstances are different and school will try to help whenever we can. I know we are closed to the vast majority of pupils but school is open every day and here to listen. Please ring us if you are struggling. You would be amazed at what we can help out with.

Take care, stay safe and remember: things will improve and know that we are here to support you. God bless and hopefully we will see you all (quite) soon!

B Rizzi-Allan and all the staff at St Bede's.