



7th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Stepping through 2021 Lockdown
'Ignore the Noise – Let's listen to each other'**

We are nearly at the end of our first week of school closure, and I expect that it may have felt like a long one – we understand! The purpose of this and future letters that will follow is to keep us together, talking, sharing understanding and hopefully feeling more comfortable as a result.

Yesterday our teaching team met to take a breath and think. Discussions began with everyone recognising and expressing respect for what a fantastic job that you, as parents, are doing for your children and for us. You have enabled us to organise our in-school provision in a positive and comfortable way for everyone involved. You have also, more importantly, supported your child and your family finding their way through these first, unusual, difficult days of this lockdown period. Whatever that has looked like for you and those closest to you it has been a success. It's important that none of us lose sight of just how big a deal this is.

As a school team yesterday we took time to remind ourselves of what is important for all of us in the wider Haytor View community during this time. We shared how the whole school community has never been faced with a lockdown and a landscape like this before. **It's all new again.** It's different to last time for all of us – different landscape, different pressures, different feelings and we hope, different outcomes. **So it's alright that it sometimes feels difficult!**

We reminded ourselves of other things too - here's a few that we would want to remind you of:-

- It's a marathon not a sprint – let's just take it step by step
- Our best hopes and number one priority is that all families and children are safe, comfortable and as happy as they can be – just that, no more!
- We want children to return to us happy and confident – this will mean that when we open again we will welcome you back, children will be ready to learn and we will support them with this learning

What does that mean for Haytor View families then?

- Parents, you, know best – you know when learning at home is what your child needs – there is no hurry or sense of expectation from us
- Resist the 'noise' telling you what children 'should be doing' around learning – it's everywhere, t.v., radio and especially on social media. You know what you are doing or not doing and why
- Let's listen to each other. Our teaching team will resist bringing you 'noise' and just try and bring you what might fit for you and your child. Feel comfortable mentioning it if we get it wrong, if we lead you to feeling pressure or feeling like you may be falling short – we don't want to do this.
 - Remote learning means learning away from school – it doesn't mean computers, tablets, smartphones. It's our job to try and provide you with what you need to support you and your child at home – feel free telling us what this is.
- **You, or your child, will never be falling short if you are safe, comfortable and as happy as possible.**

Throughout this period we are committed to doing our best to meet the needs that you share with us. We are ready to listen and to learn – just like you and your children. So please get in touch by telephone; email – admin@haytorview.devon.sch.uk; via School Gateway.

Next week we will drop you a line around other steps that we will take together as a community as we navigate this lockdown together. In the meantime thank you, as always, for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

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