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Tuesday, 31 March 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Good afternoon, thank you for continuing to support the school during this unprecedented time.

The staff are working very hard to provide regular learning opportunities for the children, please try to access what you can. Remember though we want children to be able to exercise and expand their minds through other avenues as well. So do a puzzle together, learn a dance routine, learn to play an instrument, meditate, see what pictures you can see in the clouds, get those family board games out of the back of the cupboard. Most importantly talk to each other.

We don't know how long this situation is going to last, the more time that passes the more worried people become, so share your worries with friends and family, you are not alone.

This link contains a free book explaining Covid-19 and social distancing in a child friendly manner, you may want to share it with your children:

<https://www.flipsnack.com/CSKidsBooks/what-s-going-on.html>

So many children are feeling worried and anxious right now, this could help alleviate some of their fears.

Again I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff who are keeping the school open for critical keyworkers children, they make me proud every moment to be the head of Redwell. As a school community we would also like to thank our parents who are critical keyworkers for keeping working in these challenging times, we can only imagine how hard it must be.

Thank you to the NHS and all other keyworkers for the critical role they are playing keeping our country going right now.

I had this in an email and thought it was worth sharing ...

What we know from periods of global stress is that the human spirit prevails. This *is* a global historical event, and I think it would be really helpful if we (by that I mean families, communities, schools and

society) could document the ways in which we are responding – the ways in which the human spirit prevails, the stories of kindness, love and hope that are everywhere.

Last week, I left my house for my daily run around the park and my neighbours – twin six-year-old boys whose school had given them a box of chalk – had created a beautiful chalk image on the pavement showing the growth and renewal of nature all around us. In the centre of their image were the words "*Nothing can stop spring*".

So, in this time when we are at home together or for those of us working in schools, let's create some social documentaries, some video diaries perhaps, showing the tenacity of the human spirit – hope, renewal and the affirmation of life. This too will pass.

Stay safe.

Yours sincerely

Anne Ansell
Head teacher