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Dear Parents and carers,

Thank you for everything you are doing for your children at home. We appreciate everything you are doing and hold you all in high regard. A lot of you are not teachers but are supporting your children with the learning we are providing. It took me 4 years to get my teaching degree, and overnight once again, you have been thrown into this. We want you to know how much you are appreciated. The NHS, teachers and critical workers are being recognised as Heroes but you are our Heroes.

I have had lots of conversations with parents this week about their struggles and hopefully after talking them through and offering some alternative approaches, things have been made a little easier.

I came across an article written by a headteacher and it conveys how I feel. The link is <https://www.headteacher-update.com/editorial-comment/removing-the-unnecessary-stress-of-lockdown-remote-learning-covid-coronavirus-home-education/233606/>. I hope you find time to read it.

There are so many pressures for us in school, Ofsted checking up on what we are providing, the expectation of providing 3-4 hours of work from the DfE, giving marking and feedback, producing progressive lessons.....and the list goes on. As you will know the staff have been amazing here and are providing this but I don't want it to have the wrong effect on your family life when you are juggling work and home learning. Please do what you can do, don't compare what you are doing to anyone else on social media. Everyone's circumstances are different and there is no one size that fits all!! Do what is right for you, do your best and that will be good enough for us. If you are not sure about expectations please talk to us; as I said 'Every family is different.'

Once again, thank you to the families whose children are with us in school because they are critical workers. Your work is vital and we appreciate all you are doing on the frontline during this very worrying time, like our staff you are selflessly putting others before yourselves.

Take care everyone and please get in touch if we can help at all.

Yours faithfully,
Mrs Helen Kelly