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|  | *Ysgol Gynradd a Meithrin Thornwell*  *Thornwell Primary School and Nursery Unit*  *Thornwell Road*  *Bulwark*  *Chepstow*  *MON*  *NP16 5NT*  *01291 623390/627283*  [*thornwellprimary@monmouthshire.gov.uk*](mailto:thornwellprimary@monmouthshire.gov.uk)  *Headteacher: Mr T Appleby* |

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are safe and well. I have been hearing from a range of parents from our school and other schools saying that they are really enjoying the home-learning offer that we have sent out, but also from one or two who are feeling under pressure at the moment. I just want to communicate my thoughts on this.

These are challenging times - we are all making difficult choices and we are all trying to adapt to unfamiliar situations, but ultimately we are all just trying to do our best. I’m sure that there is a great amount of fear and uncertainty; we are worried about our loved ones, jobs, businesses our family’s safety. Please do not add to this by worrying about your child’s education or putting pressure on yourself to home-school. Social media is awash with parents posting all sorts of pictures of the work they are doing, and if people want to do this, and they can do this, that’s great and maybe sharing will help to give other people ideas. But please do not feel guilty if you can’t or have not done so.

Please do not think for one second that we have made a list of pupils in our classes and that we are able to check up on what you are accessing on line, we haven’t. In many ways the roles that we as educators are being asked to do currently might feel as alien to us as the role of home-school teacher might feel to you, so please give yourselves a break. We know very well that working from home while trying to home-school one or more children is practically impossible – some of us have been trying it ourselves.

Concentrate on keeping positive, having fun and spending precious time with your children and do what you can, when you can just to keep them ‘ticking over’. Make it as much fun as you can and when the fun stops do something else. Concentrate on your family’s wellbeing as there is nothing else which is more important. You might consider limiting the amount of news you are watching if you are finding it hard –I would definitely be careful with the information that youngsters receive. They really just need to know they should keep washing their hands.

We have shared guidance from our Local Authority for parents with children at home, with suggested timetables etc. but it is just guidance for those who want to use it. We are not in any way telling you what you must do. The most important thing at the moment is to look after yourselves and those dear to you.

Stay safe, take care, and please contact me at school if there is anything that you need help or support with.

Thanks for your continued support,



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