 Dear Parents/Carers,

 I hope you are all well and that you have been enjoying the glorious weather we have been having. We are now in week 2 of the summer term and distance learning and it has been great to see all the things the children have been up to. Mrs Cran, the nursery team and I have been phoning families to check in over the last week and we will continue to do that this week. We have loved talking to the children on the phone and catching up with you. We hope to phone every family over the next few weeks.

 After speaking with lots of families we are aware that some of you are feeling over whelmed with distance learning and some children are not motivated to learn so it is causing friction. Please let me reassure every single parent, carer and child – you are doing enough. If your child is struggling with the amount of work, choose 1 or 2 activities a day to do, you could do them first thing in the morning to get them out of the way or break them down over the course of a day. Please remember that in some classes Literacy and Numeracy lessons are progressive so try and do them in order, if you are finding it too much then your child can speak to their class teacher through google classroom or you can email the school office and we will pass it on.

 We, as teachers, are also finding this very difficult. We are trying to provide learning opportunities for all the different individuals in our classes whilst looking after our families and our own children. We miss our children more than ever but we are glad that through google classrooms and on the phone we can keep in touch.

No child will be ‘behind’ or ‘ahead’ because of the schools being closed or because you have or haven’t completed all the assignments. When we get back to school we will meet them where they are and move them forwards together. The time you have with your family now is precious and now more than ever we need to ensure we are looking after our mental and emotional well-being. Now is a great time to make positive memories with your children - play outside, build dens in the house, build lego towers, do lots of cooking and baking or simply snuggle down a share a book together – your child will still be learning! Please do not feel guilty, or over whelmed if you are unable to complete the tasks on google classroom, do what you can, do what is right for your family, do what is right for you and most importantly do what is right for your child.

Midlothian’s Educational Psychology website has lots of information about how to look after your emotional and mental wellbeing during this time. It has lots of resources for both parents and children. You can visit it at <https://mideps.edublogs.org/>

Please continue to use the school email address if you have any questions or queries or require support in any way. If we can’t help you then we have lots of groups we can refer you to who may be able to, no ask is too big or too small.

 For those who are unwell, or who have family members unwell, please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you and we hope you get well soon.

I hope you all have a lovely week, please continue to send us your photos on google classroom and/or twitter. It is lovely to see the children’s smiley faces!

Be kind and stay safe

Miss Chidgey