**Dear Charles Darwin children (I'd say kids but Mrs Dobson would tell me off!)          25 April 2020**

How are you all?

I really hope you are healthy in your bodies and also in your heads. This whole "staying in" situation is pretty weird and difficult for everyone but I understand it might be even harder for you not being able to play out and see your friends. I know that you also understand that this is what everyone's got to do to keep ourselves and others safe and well and so I thank you for being so sensible and thinking of others. Remember you can still go for walk, a bike ride or a run with the people you live so long as you stay away from others.

Has anyone had a lockdown haircut yet? I'm ok because I have my clippers but my wife's wasn't too impressed when she asked me to cut hers at the back! Dex has been really hot in the sunshine so we gave him a little trim too; I'm not sure I will become a hairdresser or a dog groomer when I stop being a Headteacher!

I do not know when school will be open again for everybody. We have a tiny number of children, usually between one and seven, in school most days as the people they live are "key workers" and they do not have anyone else who can look after them. This means there are usually only three or four school staff in every day so it definitely different without more of them and you lot charging around!

Some very cute baby rabbits have appeared. They are absolutely gorgeous and I think it is good for them to be without the chickens who are being looked after by Mrs Taylor.

All school staff are healthy and well. We have loved seeing all of the things you are doing at home and especially enjoyed the videos lots of you have made so thank you; they are absolutely superb and I have to tell you quite a few people have had a little cry watching them!

**Home learning**

Doing your school work at home is obviously totally different to normal school. Not many of you live with teachers and so I know that doing school work without teachers can be tough; for you and the people you live with! I bet sometimes you have to help them more than they help you, now everyone knows what it's like to be a teacher!

I also know that a lot of the people you live with will also be doing their work from home so might not have much time to help you - please be nice to them and help them by being sensible and then they can help you when they get the time.

I spend quite a lot of time looking at the work you are sharing on the school website, well done and thank you for that. Your teachers have investigated lots of different ways of trying to do home learning and we think what we set up last week was the best way of doing things.

**Remember that your teachers can see when you have logged on and who has not!**

**Please make sure you do your work every day if you can; it will not take you as long as you would normally spend in school and it is important that you have a go.**

**It is not a competition though and I do not want you to stress about it or worry about what other people are doing; you are only responsible for yourself so put some time aside every day for "lessons," try your best, get feedback from your teachers and we will carry on being proud of you.**

**Make sure any communication you have with others is positive.**

Teachers and I will be contacting some people who haven't done anything at all next week to see how they are getting on, so please get started, if that's you! Y6 people- we are talking to the High Schools about you as we would in normal times; it's very important you do your work so that you are ready for your next school but again do not worry about this, just do your best.

That's enough from me, be nice to the people you live with, carry on doing all sorts of new things as well as your home learning and stay happy and safe.

**Remember the Charles Darwin Way:**

**Be Ready - for whatever you are doing that day and for when this is all over**

**Be Respectful – to those you live with, to your friends online and to your teachers by having a go at your home learning**

**Be Safe – stay happy and healthy**

take care

Adam Croft