

NEWSLETTER Monday 11th May 2020

We are now embarking on the eighth week of Lockdown during COVID 19 and by the time you read this newsletter the Government will have shared their latest Lockdown news. Last night's message from the Prime Minister informed us that there is a possible Government timetable for reopening schools from 1st June. It appears that Year R, Year 1 and Year 6 would be the year groups the Government believe should return in some way from that date. However, much depends on the success of suppressing the virus over the next three weeks. I am sure we will receive clarification during the next few days. I will, of course, keep you all updated as soon as we are given more information.

I hope you all enjoyed the VE day celebrations last Friday, I'm sure there were a whole range of experiences across different neighbourhoods. I had an enjoyable street party at a distance; an experience which certainly livened our spirits and helped us feel connected. The lovely sunny weather and bright blue sky are so welcome during these challenging times.

The staff at school have been missing the children terribly and so are putting together a video message for them to let them know we are thinking about them during these times. This video will be uploaded onto the school website on Friday.

I will be having a phone consultation meeting with many Year 5 parents this week. The purpose of this is for Year 5 parents to start the process of Secondary school transfer (which I know isn't until September 2021 for their children) by deciding if they wish to consider a selective school i.e. a grammar school for their child. If this is the case, the process begins next month when those parents have to register their child with the Local Authority to take the Kent Test in September 2020. If any Year 5 parent has not contacted me and still wishes to have a discussion with me about this please ring me at Sibertswold (01304 830312) for an appointment or send me an e mail me.

If there are any Year 6 parents who have still not been able to finalise their child's secondary school for this September, please let me know. I know a small number of you have recently received good news that your child has been offered a place through the waiting list process at your preferred school which is great news.

A message now for parents whose children have been given a place in Reception class in September. We will be sending information packs to you in the next few weeks. We are still hoping that we will be able to hold a Welcome Meeting sometime in July and possibly also hold an induction session for the children. This obviously will depend on possible changes to government guidelines.

I hope you are still able to access the home learning for your child without any difficulties and that your child is still engaging with it as much as is possible. If you have any queries please email your child's class teacher.

Do remember though, that outdoor learning; looking at the world around us, which seems even more amazing this year with the beautiful blossom, butterflies and a range of birds,

that are all perhaps appreciating the lower levels of pollution; is a really important part of learning and so vital for your family's well-being and happiness.

Sibertswold continues to be open for the children of Key Workers from both our schools. Please let us know with as much notice as you can when your child will be needing a place. Please remember that we will still be open for Key Workers children during the Spring Bank Holiday week Tuesday 26th – Friday 29th May but there will be no Home Learning during that week so that you can enjoy the week as a holiday.

Mrs Bird

Here is a poem I found which I think the children will understand.

The Time We Spring-Cleaned the World

The world it got so busy, there were people all around.
They left their germs behind them; in the air and on the ground.

These germs grew bigger and stronger they wanted to come and stay.
They didn't want to hurt anyone -they just really wanted to play.

Sometimes they tried to hold your hand, or tickled your throat or your nose.
They could make you cough and sneeze and make your face as red as a rose.

And so these germs took over, they started to make people ill,
And with every cough we coughed, more and more germs would spill.

All the queens and kings had a meeting. "It's time to clean the world up!" they said.
And so they had to close lots of fun stuff, just so these germs couldn't spread.

We couldn't go to cinemas or restaurants for our tea.
There was no football or parties, the world got as quiet as can be.

The kids stopped going to school, the mums and dads went to work less.
Then a great, big, giant scrubbing brush cleaned the sky and the sea and the mess!

Dads started teaching the sums, big brothers played with us more,
Mums were in charge of homework and we read and played jigsaws galore!

The whole world was washing their hands and building super toilet roll forts!
Outside was quiet and peaceful, now home was the place for all sports.

So we played in the world that was home and our days filled up with fun and love,
And the germs they grew smaller and smaller and the sun watched from up above.

Then one morning the sun woke up early, she smiled and stretched her beams wide.
The world had been fully spring cleaned, it was time to go back outside!

We opened our doors oh so slowly and breathed in the clean and fresh air.
We promised that forever and always of this beautiful world we'd take care !

I close this week's newsletter hoping you are all managing to stay positive and in good health, hopefully we will be back together as a school family sometime fairly soon.

I invite you to share our prayer for the week with your children.

Dear Father God, You are the God of love and hope,
you made the world and care for all creation,
but the world feels strange right now.
The news is full of stories about Coronavirus.
Some people are worried that they might get ill.
Others are anxious for their family and friends.
Be with them and help them to find peace.
We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists,
and all who are working to discover the right medicines
to help those who are ill.
Thank you that even in these anxious times,
you are with us.
Help us to put our trust in you and keep us safe. Amen.