

# NEWSLETTER JULY 13<sup>th</sup> 2020

I write this week's newsletter as we begin the final, complete week of this term and of course, this school year. None of us were to know back in September how this year would be so dramatically different to our usual expectations or how it would change people's lives; possibly for ever.

The old normal now seems like a very distant memory and although there have been many restrictions of Lockdown lifted, this new normal looks like being with us for some time. When we closed the schools on Friday March 20<sup>th</sup>, to all except Key Workers and Vulnerable children, it was a very disturbing time; I remember speaking with several parents who were saying to me that they didn't think they would be back until September! I just couldn't take them seriously. In many respects, however, they were right, or almost right, as some year groups have been unable to return but four months on we have opened our doors to EYFS, Year 1, Year 5 and Year 6, in addition to the Key Workers' children who have been with us since the start; the school has recovered into a calm, purposeful, busy yet very different place to be.

We were pleased last Friday afternoon to be able to invite some parents of our new EYFS for September in for the brief welcome meeting that we usually hold in May! Unfortunately we haven't been able to invite the children into school but Miss Gollop is having individual zoom meetings with them and their parents as a virtual home visit. I hope the parents feel well-informed about their child's entry into school. This week we look forward the return of many children who are attending their transition sessions.

I make no apology for again using this newsletter to remind everyone about the importance of following the government's advice concerning Covid 19. Sadly, the virus has not gone away and remains a lethal menace lurking in the background. The easing of lockdown will be successful only if we remember this. If we wash our hands very regularly, don't touch our faces without cleaning our hands, keep to good social distancing as much as possible, avoid crowds, particularly indoors, wear face masks in shops / public transport and follow all the guidance of every establishment we enter; then we help everyone to stay safe. It is really important we do everything we can to avoid a second wave of illness and a further lockdown.

Parents should have received their child's annual report by now, which was posted last Friday. In the report, you will also have found information about the class structure for next year also. In the main, we have tried to keep the children with the same teacher as in the last school year. The reason for this is quite simple; they will already have a sound understanding of each other, which in turn will ensure a much quicker and smoother transition back into school life. As you can imagine, for teachers, these reports were the most difficult to write having had most children away from school for almost half of the year. Due to this, it is very difficult to accurately predict where children are academically at for this given time. Once the children return to us in September, we will be able to get a much more realistic picture of this and will of course look to share this information with parents. If you have any questions about the reports or in fact have still not received it then please let us know.

We are concerned that not all parents are reading the various emails, parent text messages and newsletters on the school website. These means of communicating to you are extremely important as we are trying to convey promptly the information that you need to know. This is especially important at the moment when changes are likely to be a very regular occurrence.

As you are probably aware the school will be fully open to everyone again in September but with important changes to procedure to enable us to have all children in school whilst keeping the risk of virus transmission to a minimum. Everything we plan will be based on government guidance for safe practice.

This week's poem was written by Elisha in Mercury Key Workers' group; with his thoughts on Covid 19

Covid 19

Closed schools,  
Only able to hug your household,  
Respect social distancing,  
Over anxious  
NHS saving us,  
Alert here, alert there,  
Virus roaming,  
Internet used more,  
Restricted time outdoors,  
Social distancing,  
Unhappy thoughts...  
When will it ever end?

**I leave you with this week's prayer which you may wish to share with your children. Stay safe and have a good week, hopefully filled with sunshine and joyful moments.**

Dear Father God,  
You taught us to love our neighbour,  
and to care for those in need  
as if we were caring for you.  
In this time of anxiety, give us strength  
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,  
and to assure the isolated  
of our love, and your love,  
for your name's sake.  
**Amen.**

