

NEWSLETTER MONDAY 15TH June 2020

As we enter Week 13 of Lockdown and we are now in the middle of June with only 5 weeks left of this school year this really does seem like the new normal even though more restrictions were slightly eased by the Government again last week, which may make life easier for some of you.

I do hope that you are all still following the government guidelines very closely, as although Lockdown has been eased in some ways, the Corona Virus is still very much out there and has the potential to spread rapidly again if we are not very careful.

Last week in school, the second week of the partial opening, was again very calm and I believe that our very careful planning beforehand, ensuring that social distancing and strict hygiene measures were all in place, helped a great deal. We welcomed slightly more children back into school over the course of the week. As of today we have four “bubbles” in operation – EYFS, Year One, Year Six and those Key Workers. Each “bubble” has their daily allocated outside space where the designated children go at break and lunchtimes and for any outdoor learning. The children continue to be extremely well-behaved and thoughtful towards each other. They seem to have adjusted quickly to the very different type of school that we have had to set up; I am very pleased to say that they all seem to have accepted life in this new situation.

A reminder to parents whose children are now attending school, please read the joining instructions which will have been sent to you as this will indicate which group your child is in and which entrance and you wait at, socially distancing 2 metres of course. Also remember that your child must only bring their lunch in a plastic box or plastic carrier bag, if they are not having a school packed lunch and themselves into school. We are trying to ensure school germs stay as much as possible in school and home germs stay at home.

This has been a very busy week in school as we try to establish (as much as we are able to) the maximum number of EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6 children we will be having in school for the remainder of this term. This information enables us to create a plan for Year 5 children to return; Year 5 parents on Thursday received an email letter, initially trying to identify how many children would be coming in to school on a 3-day basis between the hours of 10am and 2pm. We have asked to hear back from all Year 5 parents by Wednesday and following this we will be in touch with those wishing to send their children back giving more information about the plans.

The government has made it slightly less stressful for us when they announced that their ambition for all year groups to return will not go ahead but they will let schools take more ownership and try to achieve what is the best for their own unique schools. I do, however, feel very sorry and a little guilty that all other year groups are not expected back in school before September. Please do not feel you have been forgotten, you are still very much part of our school family which has been, like many families, kept apart by this dreadful virus which is obviously way beyond our control.

A reminder to Year 5 parents who wish their child to take the Kent Test that you must register them through the Kent Gov website by 1st July. You should also register them for the Dover boys/girls grammar school's own test during this time. Thank you to the parents who have informed me that they have registered their child; I would like to hear from all Y5 parents once they have done this.

Liz Bird

This week's poem is written by an 11 year old boy about his thoughts in Lockdown.

One World, One Poem

Life was always fast-paced, we never slowed down, Until everything stopped when Corona came to town.

Now all is quiet and there's peace all around, We've looked in our hearts and it's kindness we've found.

We learn now with mum, this is a new feature, But we can't wait to get back to our teacher.

I miss Sea- Cadets, school, my friends and my dad, I miss sharing the fun times and that makes me sad.

We've had social distancing picnics, social distancing walks, Social distancing hugs and social distancing talks.

I'm looking forward to getting away, The beach, the hotel and a perfect holiday.

When it is safe, I'll throw my arms open wide, And shout to the world "We can all go outside.

Don't give up hope, the end is in sight, If we all stick together we'll all win this fight.

I hope you are all making the most of the sunshine when it does put in an appearance and that you are having some enjoyable moments, managing to stay positive and remain in good health. Stay safe and have a good week.

This week's worship theme is The Fruits of The Spirit with a focus on Peace.

I invite you to share this prayer with your children:

Dear Father God,
Help us to love and care,
To be gentle and fair.
Help us to work and play together,
Help us to live and grow together,
To be always glad to help each other,
Happy in your loving care.
Amen