

NEWSLETTER 14/4/2020

I do hope you have all enjoyed the lovely sunny weather we have been experiencing and have had a happy Easter.

As we begin our fourth week in lockdown, we start to think of the new school term beginning on Thursday of this week. This will be Term 5, first half of the Summer term. As I'm sure you are aware school will still be officially shut but Sibertswold will once again be open for child care services to the children of key workers from both our schools who would otherwise have no one to look after their children. If you are a Key Worker and have not already sent us the dates you require, please can you do this as soon as possible so that we can ensure enough staff are available.

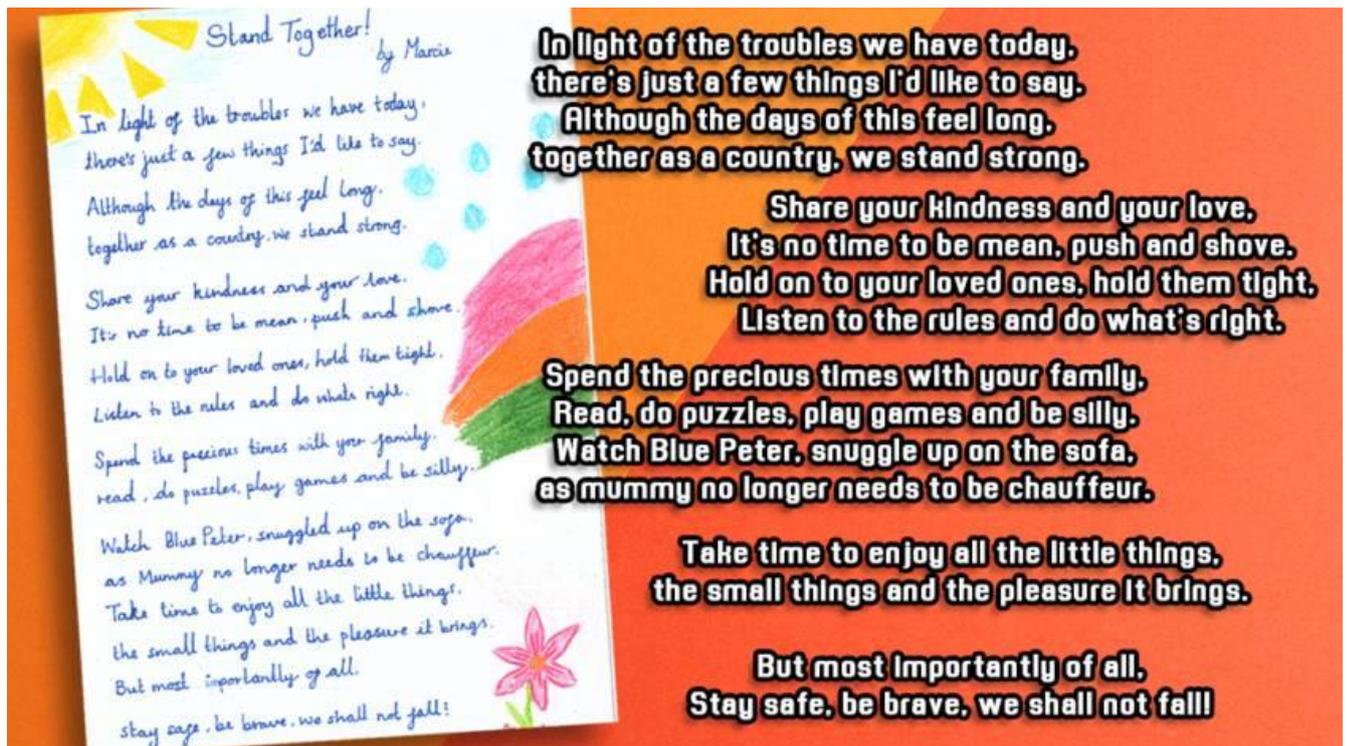
Home Learning will start again from Thursday; we have been reflecting on the first 8 days of this and having listened to comments from some parents we have made a few changes which we hope will make it work more effectively for children and parents. Our prime aim is to try and make the learning as straight forward as we can so that you can support your child as easily as possible. These are the changes we have made:

- Work will be uploaded from 5pm the day before, ie. Monday's work will be available from 5pm on the Sunday.
- Work will be in both pdf form and as Word documents...so that you can use whichever suits you best.
- There will be more creative- type activities involving a wider range of skills which hopefully will appeal to the children who find it so hard to keep writing but there will also be work sheet tasks which some children prefer. You should make the choice which suits your child best or if they want to do both then that is also fine. Please remember that we are aware how difficult this whole situation is and the well-being of your children and yourselves is our most important concern.
- Please remember to email your child's class teacher if you have any problems with the tasks so they can adapt the work accordingly ; they have appreciated the emails that parents have sent as it enables them to understand how your child is coping.
- We have been looking into the possibility of zoom meetings to maintain a sense of class togetherness but are concerned at the negative publicity zoom is currently experiencing due to online safety issues. We are therefore researching more into the use of it and at different methods to communicate.
- We are also exploring ways to enable you to upload your child's completed work for the Class Teacher to mark and assess however currently we ask you to email work that can be sent in this way to the Class Teacher. As soon as we find an easier method we will let you know.
- In addition we are considering the possibility of holding Focus-type days on a weekly basis to help maintain interest and enjoyment from the children.

This is certainly a strange and in many ways disturbing time but it is also giving us the opportunity to see another side to life which too often we miss. I am enjoying the opportunity and time to listen to the birds and to identify their different songs and calls; to really appreciate our world coming back to life as nature wakes up from its winter sleep.

These are points that the children should learn to evaluate and I hope you will feel able to share these poems with them

Mrs Bird



"And the people stayed home"

And the people stayed home.

And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised,

and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being

and were still.

And listened more deeply.

Some meditated, some prayed, some danced.

Some met their shadows.

And the people began to think differently.

And the people healed.

*And, in the absence of people living in ignorant,
dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways,
the earth began to heal.*

*And when the danger passed,
and the people joined together again,
they grieved their losses, and made new choices,
and dreamed new images,
and created new ways to live
and heal the earth fully,
as they had been healed.*

I ask you to reflect on any moments of joy that have come to you during these topsy-turvy times. For example, I heard today how a brother and sister have learned to appreciate each other's company and love each other again. I leave you with a short prayer that you may wish to share with your children.

Dear Father God,

When I feel worried about what is happening in the world,

Blow my worries away like the wind blows leaves on an autumn day.

When I feel sad about how this virus is making so many people sick,

Wash my tears away like a waterfall washes over rocks and makes them smooth.

When I feel scared that I might get this horrible virus,

Calm my fears like the dawn makes a dark night fade away and I feel safe again.

Thank you that you are with me and everyone I am worried about.

Thank you that you love me and will always be with me.

Amen.