

NEWSLETTER Monday 1ST June

I hope you were all able to take advantage of the lovely sunny weather we were blessed with during last week's Spring Bank Holiday; I'm sure it was good to be able to relax and not worry about home learning commitments for you and your children.

This week, June 1st – June 5th week can also be regarded by parents as a holiday week if you wish and if you'd booked time off work, so your child will not be expected to do Home Learning in that instance. There will, however be learning activities uploaded on the home Learning page for those parents that wish to use it. Year 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be able to access Home Learning as usual from today. For EYFS and Year 1 parents, who will not be sending their child back to school from today, home learning activities and useful websites will be on your child's home learning page for you to continue the learning at home.

From today, both of our schools will be partially open for children of Key Workers, Vulnerable children and for the first time, EYFS and Year 1 children. Last week we spent time preparing for this, ensuring in each classroom that is being used that children will be sitting 2 metres away from each other. We are able to accommodate 6 children safely in the classrooms. We will also be providing childcare for the Key Workers' children within their own separate classroom. A reminder parents that you have been given a specific group letter which identifies the entrance and route into school you must use. All parents must park outside the school grounds. Once inside the school gate, please follow the one-way system in and out of the school following the arrows on the floor. When on the playground, please wait at a spot where the adult in charge of your child for the day will meet you. Please remember social distancing as having so many more people coming into school is a concern that we must take seriously.

Due to our current low numbers of children in EYFS and Year One attending, we would like to invite the small number of Year 6 pupils who indicated a wish to return. This will be with effect from Wednesday 3rd June. You will receive a telephone call later today to go over this in more detail.

I hope **Year 5 parents** who are considering Dover Grammar school for girls for their daughter received the email forwarded to you last week from the school giving you important information. All Year 5 parents wishing their child to take the Kent Test please remember that registration for the Kent test opens today and closes on 1st July, so if you have decided to put your child in for the Kent Test please register them with the Local Authority during their time frame. The Local Authority suggests you go on 'kelsi' their web pages for information as to how to register your child.

This week's poem is **The Great Realisation**, which I hope you will appreciate.

'It was a world of waste and wonder, of poverty and plenty
Back before we understood why hindsight's 2020

'You see the people people came up with companies to trade across all lands.
But they swelled and got bigger than we could ever have planned

'We'd always had our wants, but now it got so quick.
You could have everything you dreamed of in a day and with a click.

'We noticed families had stopped talking. That's not to say they never spoke.
But the meaning must have melted and the work life balance broke.

'And the children's eyes got squarer and every toddler had a phone.
They filtered out the imperfections but amidst the noise, they felt alone.

'And every day the sky grew thicker, til we couldn't see the stars.
So we flew in planes to find them while down below we filled our cars.

'We'd drive around all day in circles. We'd forgotten how to run.
We swapped the grass for tarmac, shrunk the parks till there were none.

'We filled the sea with plastic, cause our waste was never capped.
Until each day when you went fishing, you'd pull them out already wrapped.

'And while we drank and smoked and gambled, our leaders taught us why,
It's best to not upset the lobbies, more convenient to die.

'But then in 2020, a new virus came our way.
The government reacted and told us all to hide away.

'But while we were all hidden, amidst the fear and all the while,
The people dusted off their instincts, they remembered how to smile.

'They started clapping to say thank you, and calling up their mums.

'And while the cars keys were gathering dust, they would look forward to their runs.

'And with the sky less full of planes, the earth began to breathe.
And the beaches brought new wildlife that scattered off into the seas.

'Some people started dancing, some were singing, some were baking.
We'd grown so used to bad news but some good news was in the making.

'And so when we found the cure and were allowed to go outside,
We all preferred the world we found to the one we'd left behind.

'Old habits became extinct, and they made way for the new.
And every simple act of kindness was now given its due.

'But why did it take a virus to bring the people back together?'
Well, sometimes, you got to get sick, my boy, before you start feeling better.

'Now lie down, and dream of tomorrow, and all the things that we can do.
And who knows, maybe if you dream strong enough, make some of them will come true.

'We now call it the Great Realisation, and yes, since then there have been m

I invite you to share this prayer with your children.

Dear Father God, Lord of heaven and earth,

In these times of isolation, apart from loved ones
distant from friends and away from neighbours,
Thank you that there is nothing in all of creation,
not even coronavirus, that is able to separate us from your love.

And may your love that never fails, continue to be shared
through the kindness of strangers, looking out for each other,
for neighbours near and far all recognising our shared vulnerability,
each of us grateful for every breath,
and willing everyone to know the gift of a full and healthy life.
Keep us all in your loving care.

Amen.