

# Newsletter 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020

I hope you are all managing to stay safe and that you are keeping your spirits up. As I write this newsletter I find it hard to believe we are now entering the fifth week of lock down; I'm looking at a robin in my garden, noticing far more than I ever would have in normal times.

School reopened last Thursday, the start of Term 5, for children of our Key Workers. Eythorne Elvington school remains closed so children and staff from both schools are working together ( at a safe distance) based up at Sibertswold. Parents please note, the kitchen at Eythorne Elvington is now closed during the Lockdown period so please ensure that your child brings a packed lunch when they are in school. We also ask that you let us know future dates you will need your child to come into school, if you have not already done this. We have planned a staff rotation system through to the beginning of June to enable Key Workers, who need our childcare provision, to continue working. Obviously, at the moment no one is clear as to when schools will reopen for all children or how indeed this will work.

I hope you have accessed the on- line Home Learning on the class pages of the schools' websites and that the changes made are working for you. We are still trying to arrange a safe system where Key Stage 2 children in their classes can meet together on line. Please remember to email your child's class teacher if you have any concerns with the learning tasks and also that we do not expect all of the work to be completed but we hope your child will enjoy either the more Creative activities or the more structured, written tasks. It is important if possible that you continue hearing your child read regularly, work on their spellings/sounds and look at number bonds or for older children help them to learn their times tables.

**I leave you with a poem which you may be interested to read and following the poem is our prayer for the week which you may wish to share with your children. The newsletter will end with a letter from our Chair of Governors Richard Webster with updated information on the leadership of The Federation from September.**

**Have a good week and stay safe.**

**Mrs Bird**

## **The Rainbow Children**

The history books will talk of now,  
That time the world stood still.  
When every family stayed at home,  
Waved out from windowsills-  
At those they loved but could not hold,  
Because they loved them so.  
Yet, whilst they did they noticed all the flowers start to grow.

The sun came out, they can recall,  
And windows, rainbows filled.  
They kicked a football in their yards,  
Until the night drew in.  
They walked each day but not too close,

That time the world stood still.  
When people walked straight down the roads,  
That once the cars did fill.

They saw that people became ill,  
They knew the world was scared.  
But whilst the world stood still they saw,  
How much the whole world cared.  
They clapped on Thursdays from their doors,  
They cheered for the brave.  
For people who would risk their lives,  
So others could be saved.

The schools closed down, they missed their friends,  
They missed their teachers so.  
Their Mam's and Dad's helped with their work,  
They helped their minds to grow.  
The parents used to worry that,  
As schools were put on hold,  
Their children wouldn't have the tools,  
They'd need as they grew old.

But history books will talk of them,  
Now adults, fully grown.  
Those little boys and girls back then,  
The ones who stayed at home.  
They'll tell you that they fixed this world,  
Of all they would fulfil.  
The RAINBOW children building dreams,  
They'd dreamed whilst time stood still

#### Prayer

Dear Father God,

You are ever present,  
Be with us in our isolation,  
be close to us in our distancing,  
be healing in our sickness,  
be joy in our sadness,  
be light in our darkness,

be wisdom in our confusion,  
be all that is familiar when all is unfamiliar,  
that when the doors reopen  
we may with the joy of Pentecost  
inhabit our communities  
and speak of your goodness  
to an emerging world.  
Amen.

Dear Parents, Carers and Staff

Please find below an update on where we are with the recruitment of a new Executive Headteacher and school leadership for September.

Governors met just before and during the holiday.

Firstly, the recruitment panel met to consider the applications received for the post of Executive Headteacher. They shortlisted 3 candidates for interview. Unfortunately due to the suspension of 'normal school' it is not possible to carry out these interviews until school fully reopens. It is very important that we see how the candidates interact with pupils, staff and governors on a normal school day. If schools do open before the end of July we would plan to interview before the summer holidays. If this is not possible, we would hope to interview in September.

It will not be possible to complete the recruitment process in time for a new Executive Headteacher to be in post for the beginning of the new academic year. The earliest start date would be 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021.

The Full Governing Body then met to discuss the options for school leadership in September. Governors agreed to ask the current Heads of School to take on the role of Acting Headteacher on a temporary basis until a new Executive Headteacher takes up the post. Both Mr Garvey (Eythorne Elvington) and Mr Lamb (Sibertswold) have agreed to take on this role in their respective schools. Professional support for Mr Garvey and Mr Lamb, in their new role, will be made available by the Local Authority. Governors will continue to lead the strategy of both schools and the Federation. This decision was reached following careful consideration of other leadership models.

A word of caution. We will not appoint just for the sake of having someone in place by January. If we do not find a suitable candidate when we interview, we will re-advertise and go through another recruitment round until we find the right person.

As we go through the process, Governors still remain interested in hearing your views or concerns. You can do this by email ([rwebster@eythorne-elvington.kent.sch.uk](mailto:rwebster@eythorne-elvington.kent.sch.uk))

We will keep you informed of any updates, via the school newsletter, on our progress through the recruitment process.

Please do stay safe and well

Richard Webster (Chair of Governors)