

NEWSLETTER MONDAY 22ND JUNE

It is hard to believe that we have just over four weeks left of this school year!

The past three months have been so upside down and “topsy – turvy” and no one could have imagined at the beginning of the year that the prevention of the transmission of Covid19 would be at the centre of our thinking in school and the central purpose to our planning. I have probably drawn up nearly twenty plans since Easter aiming to meet the Government’s guidelines whilst at the same time trying to do what is right for our school community and ensure the highest quality education for our children.

This week we welcome Year 5 children back into school for three days a week. Almost 50% of our reception and Year One cohorts are back in class now plus around 30% of the Year sixes. The children are organised in separate “bubbles” according to year groups and each have a “classroom bubble” where they spend their day. Each “bubble” has its daily allocated outside space where the designated children go at break and lunchtimes and for any outdoor learning. These arrangements make it easier to ensure the children maintain good hygiene practices and limits the number of children and adults each individual comes into contact with; thus reducing the possibility of infection transmission.

The children continue to be extremely well-behaved and thoughtful towards each other, trying very hard to keep to the 2 metres social distance rule at all times. They seem to have adjusted quickly to the very different type of school that we have had to set up and I am very pleased to see just how adaptable and flexible they are.

A reminder to Year 5 parents who wish their children to take the Kent Test that you must register them through the 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 and I would like to hear from all Y5 parents once they have done this. I am aware from information I have received that the exact date when the Kent Test will go ahead is still being discussed at local and national level I will update you with further information as soon as I have details confirmed.

Please can I ask all parents whose children are coming into school to ensure that nothing comes into school with your child except their packed lunch which we would like in a plastic carrier bag, or similar, and their plastic drinks’ bottle. We do not want any back- packs, lunch boxes, books or anything coming in from home at all. Likewise, we will not send anything home except drinks bottle and of course your child! This all help to reduce the risk of infection transmission.

Please remember that the children do not need to wear school uniform; they should come into school wearing easy to wash clothes so they have a change of clothing each day. This is another way of minimising the risk of infection.

Mrs Bird

I will continue to send a weekly poem during these unusual times as poetry is such a good way of expressing our feelings particularly at difficult moments. This week's poem gives an overview of life in COVID 19 Lockdown .

Poem about coronavirus

Life feels like time has stood still
It is such a confusion,
No one knows when this will be till.

It's hard to say what the cause of this was
Currently life has no real buzz.

The virus keeps on spreading so fast
A world full of germs, this memory will forever last.

Doctors and nurses are working so hard
Superstar teachers are patient and willing.
These are the real heroes, they keep up our guard.

Our mummies and daddies are keeping us all safe.
There's no need to be afraid.
We must all stay at home, safely tucked away in our own little caves.

We must all unite to fight away this chapter,
Come together as a world and make a stand.
So we can all live happily ever after in our magical home land.

I hope, that despite the difficulties, you are all having some enjoyable moments and possibly benefitting from some of the lockdown restrictions that have been lifted. Most importantly I trust you remain in good health. Stay safe and have a good week.

This week's worship theme is Who is Jesus?

I invite you to share this prayer with your children:

A prayer remembering God is with us.

Dear Father God,

You are always with me.

You are with me in the day and in the night.

You are with me when I'm happy and when I'm sad.

You are with me when I'm healthy and when I am ill.

You are with me when I am peaceful and when I am worried.

Today I am feeling (name how you are feeling) because (reasons you are feeling this way).

Help me to remember that you love me and are with me in everything today.

Amen

