

## Newsletter: Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March

Last week was a very unusual one for the whole country and of course we as a school had the added uncertainty as to if or when schools would close.

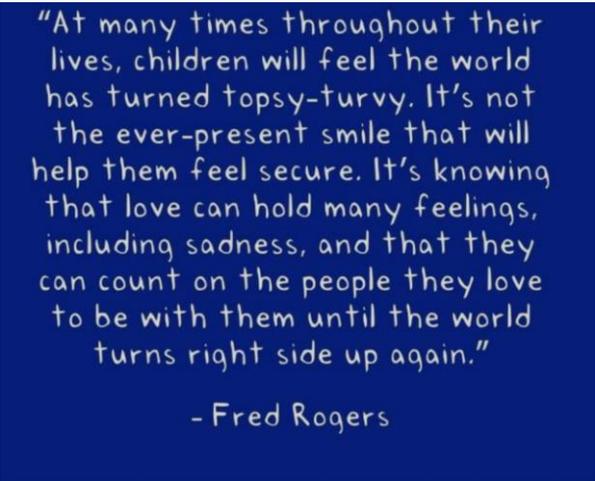
As a staff we anticipated that this would happen sooner rather than later. Teachers have been busy creating packs for home as well as adapting their planning, looking for suitable online resources and creating the Home Learning website page.

When the news about school closure finally came through we were given the added task of organising a childcare service for the children of Key Workers. Whilst we understand the importance of this and the need to act at this time of National emergency, it must be remembered that the whole point of closing schools is to avoid large gatherings and reduce the spread of infections. We already had a number of staff who were self-isolating or otherwise unwell so the task of making plans to care for additional children of key workers was a difficult one.

We have of course risen to the challenge but the school **will be fully closed over the Easter Holidays (Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April)** as we are not in a position to offer a service. We will reopen on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April again to care for the children of Key workers and will continue to do so for the duration of this national crisis until further notice.

It is very important that we follow the advice given and help each other to stay fit and healthy. My thoughts and prayers are with you all as we look forward to the end of this crisis. I will continue to write a weekly newsletter to you all despite the closure.

You may be interested in the following quote:



"At many times throughout their lives, children will feel the world has turned topsy-turvy. It's not the ever-present smile that will help them feel secure. It's knowing that love can hold many feelings, including sadness, and that they can count on the people they love to be with them until the world turns right side up again."

- Fred Rogers

Finally, I would like to leave you with the following prayer which you may wish to share with your children:

*God of love and hope,*

*You made the world and care for all creation, but the world feels strange right now.*

*The news is full of stories about Coronavirus. Some people are worried that they might get ill. Others are anxious for their family and friends. Be with them and help them to find peace.*

*We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists, and all who are working to discover the right medicines to help those who are ill.*

*Thank you that even in these anxious times, you are with us. Help us to put our trust in you and keep us safe.*

*Amen.*

Liz Bird