

NEWSLETTER April 27th 2020

I write this week's newsletter as we enter the sixth week of Lockdown and I wonder if for you this is beginning to feel like the normal. The days when I'm in school seem normal, as if very little has changed, apart from there being only a small number of children and staff. When I'm working from home, however, it feels like a totally different upside down normal which I am getting used to. I do hope you are all coping and managing to create some new and happy times amidst all of the uncertainty that we are surrounded by.

Last week was our first full week back to school after the Easter Holiday break, for the children of key workers who need our child care facility. We are still working only from Sibertswold and have children and staff from both schools joining us each day. We have had, on average, since Easter, twelve children coming in on a daily basis which means we can ensure we keep to the social distancing advice of staying 2 metres apart. They are split into three classrooms across the school with a member of staff guiding their Home Learning tasks. Please can key Worker parents who need places in school let us know with as much advance notice as possible?

I hope you are finding the Home Learning changes that we are trying to make helpful and your children are enjoying what they are doing. Please remember to contact your child's class teacher if you have any questions about the Home Learning.

I have been listening to the daily reports on COVID 19 and have received daily information from the Department for Education and Local Authority concerning the impact of school closures for the majority of our children. I am aware that none of us know when any changes to the Lockdown will be made but I do believe that when this does happen schools will have to consider very carefully how we could begin to have a phased return for all children whilst at the same time ensuring we keep to social distancing regulations. As leaders of our two schools we are beginning to share ideas and see how this could happen if and when we are called to open the schools in some way. When we have more information on this we will share our plan with you.

Mrs Bird

I have this week, adapted the following poem because the original made me stop and think.

And So The Sun

It's been noisy all morning, the roads are filled with cars
Of people trying to make it somewhere different than where they are
Trying not to be late, but the traffic means they have to wait.

The cars pass by a school, they pass by some parks and shops
They pass by some restaurants and salons, all working non-stop
The day had only begun, and there's so much to be done
Today's a morning, just like any other morning
Of human civilization under the sun.

And so the sun, when looking down
Thought "What would happen if things changed around?
The world is just like a sun that will not set
When will the world ever rest?

What if: these cars had no place to be, these shops all closed,
People were forced to focus only on the things they really need,
People were forced to spend time alone, to reflect and focus on their health?
I'm not talking about just one town, what if the whole world changed around?
Everyone together, connected, all going through the same thing, all equally affected.
What if all this pollution started declining?
With the roads mostly empty and fewer planes flying?
What if families were forced to bond whether or not they got along?
And forced everyone to live the same way forced to see they're all alike.

What if parents watched their children learn and grow?

What if there was a deeper feeling of unity?

With more people being aware of their communities?

Just for a while,

What if there was a collective pause?

So the upcoming mornings

Wouldn't move so fast

And people could re-evaluate

The way they were living in the past?"

And so the sun when looking down,

Thought "What would happen if things changed around?"

I leave you with this week's prayer which you may wish to share with your children. Stay safe and have a good week.

Dear Father God,

Stand beside us:

If we are afraid, calm us,

If we are tired help us to rest,

If we are fearful, inspire us to hope.

Breathe your Spirit on us

And show us new ways to live

May we continue to learn what hope means in these troubled times and

May you be the source of our peace,our joy and our everlasting life.

Amen.