

We are now in the fifth new month since Lockdown began such a long time ago. Usually, moving into July signals Sports Day, Year 6 Residential visit to France, Focus week and even Year 6 selling ice lollies. I think we have all accepted that for the time being those activities would seem very out of place and unachievable. We are, however, looking forward to our virtual Sports Day at both schools on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July and are excited at the opportunities for the children to meet their new teachers for September next week (13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> July) which I really hope will give us all a sense of something different and perhaps show how things have moved on.

I do hope that you are all still following the government guidelines very closely. Although Lockdown has been eased in so many ways, the Corona Virus is still very much out there and has the potential to spread rapidly again if we are not very careful. It is clear from the experience of Leicester, that local Lockdowns will be imposed if an area reports a worrying level of new infections. Whilst this is clearly a sensible policy it is something we all want to avoid if we can. If everyone follows the guidelines such as social distancing and regular handwashing we can stamp out this disease very effectively. On the other hand if we become careless and return to old ways, the numbers of infections can quickly return to a very dangerous level as has been seen in some parts of the USA. We owe it to the vulnerable to work together to prevent a return to the dark days of March and April. I have received some concerns from worried parents that other parents are not keeping to the social distance rules as they bring their children to school and I strongly urge everyone to take this very seriously.

For the past few weeks now we have received steady numbers of children attending from Years R,1,5 and 6 plus our “bubble” of Key Workers. We are beginning to plan for September and how we can achieve the best for our school communities whilst at the same time keeping within the government’s recently published expectations and demands. You can help us initially by letting us know by email if you intend to use the Breakfast Club provision at the start of the year.

I hope the children currently not in school continue to enjoy their home learning and are able to keep in touch with their class teacher by email. We hope to see as many children as possible at next week’s transition events. If you are unsure as to when these are please call the school office for more information.

I hope all Year 5 parents who wished to register their children for the Kent Test and Dover boys or girls grammar school tests have now done so. The closing date has passed as it was last Wednesday, July 1<sup>st</sup>. It is looking very likely that due to COVID 19, the date when the children actually take the Kent test will be put back by a few weeks and will be in October. It appears that the results of the tests will not be available for parents before you submit your Common Application Form with your Secondary school choices, however you will be given an additional 2 school choices to previous years.

It has been very difficult to carry out our usual induction events for our new Early Years children who will be joining us in September. We are, however pleased to be able to invite a very small number of their parents to a brief socially- distanced meeting, which will be held today on Friday afternoon (10<sup>th</sup> July). Hopefully this will be helpful to them in readiness for September. Miss Gollop has also created a welcome video on the school website for the children who will begin their school life here at Sibertswold in September along with other helpful information.

End of year reports will be sent home from Friday of this week, with the children who are in school. The remaining reports will be posted on Friday.

This week's poem was written by Daniel, a pupil at Siberstswold Primary School.

The COVID 19

As horrible as it may be,

It is all nature taking its own just revenge.

We will find a cure,

Though we have not just right now.

You must remember,

It's all wonderful nature.

Like working at home,

Operating countries differently,

COVID 19 is destroying the economy,

Killing many people,

Doubt over the Prime Minister,

Over-stretched NHS,

Waiting for scientists to find a cure,

National difficulties for us the British public.

I hope you all have a happy week where you can find some joyful moments and where everyone stays healthy and safe. Our Worship theme this week is 'I am the Bread of Life'.

**I invite you to share our prayer with your children:**

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.