

## **NEWSLETTER   Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

I write this week's newsletter after the first week of our partial reopening. As you know it has been for EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6 children only. Additionally the key workers' children and vulnerable children have continued to come in as they have done since March 23<sup>rd</sup>. It's hard to believe that we are beginning Week 12 of Lockdown but with more staff and children in school I feel this could be the beginning of what the "new normal" feels like!

I do hope that you are all still following the government guidelines very closely, as although Lockdown has been eased in some ways, the Corona Virus is still very much out there and has the potential to spread rapidly again if we are not very careful.

We are particularly conscious of this in school because with between 15 – 20 children and more adults than before, the danger of spreading the virus is higher and the risk can only be reduced by careful management and everyone playing their part. It is vital that we all stick to the 2 metres social distancing rule and only meet with the allowed number of people. The virus spreads much more easily indoors so we must only meet others outside and not in our houses. Also by continually washing our hands thoroughly and by not touching our faces before we wash our hands then we reduce the risks to an acceptable level that will save lives.

Last week in school was very calm and I believe that our very careful planning beforehand, ensuring that social distancing and strict hygiene measures were all in place, helped a great deal. We now have 30% of children in EYFS, 25% of those in Year 1 and 33% of our Year 6 cohort. Although this is a fairly small proportion of the children, it seemed to fill the "classroom bubbles" they are currently in. The children of Key Workers are in a separate "bubble" of their own each day. Each "bubble" has their daily allocated outside space where the designated children go at break and lunchtimes and for any outdoor learning. The children were incredibly well-behaved, adjusted quickly to the very different type of school that we have had to set up and I am really pleased to say that they all seemed happy with life in this new situation

Please can I ask all parents whose children are coming into school, to only send in 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!

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.

Year 6 parents, please note that we are still pursuing the deposit paid for the cancelled French Residential visit and are working both with Manor Adventure the owners and the Local Authority insurers. We will let you know as soon as we have any further news on this.

**Year 5 parents** wishing their child to take the Kent Test please remember that registration for the Kent test is now open. It closes on 1<sup>st</sup> July so if you have decided to enter your child for the Kent Test please register them with the Local Authority as soon as possible at [www.kent.gov.ukola](http://www.kent.gov.ukola). Please let me know on [headteacher@sibertswold.kent.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@sibertswold.kent.sch.uk) when you have registered your child so I can keep track of this.

Home Learning and useful websites will continue to be uploaded for **all year groups** who are not in school. Please remember to contact your child's class teacher if you need any help.

Mrs Bird

This week's poem has been sent to me by one of our parents, so I thought I would share it with you. It is very apt!

First day back to school today  
My tummy feels all funny  
Can't wait to see my friends again  
But something's wrong with mummy

First day back to school today  
No photo by the door  
Mummy said "No, not today."  
But why I'm not quite sure.

First day back to school today  
Can't wait to play with Sue  
I'll squish her with my bestest hug  
And share all my toys, it's true!

First day back to school today  
We lined up by the gate  
I spotted Sue, I tried to run  
But Mummy shouted, "Wait!"

First day back to school today  
I waved goodbye to Mummy  
A little tear rolled down her cheek  
The ache grew in my tummy

First day back to school today  
I'm no longer in Sue's class  
Miss explained, "We cannot mix!"  
As I peered in through the glass

First day back to school today  
Our play times were all strange  
Just my group, no extra friends  
Why did things have to change?

First day back to school today  
I tripped and grazed my knee  
Miss stayed back as she wiped me clean  
Why is she scared of me?

First day back to school today  
I learnt how not to share  
And how to stay away from friends  
To show them that I care

First day back to school today  
My teacher waved goodbye  
Mummy wrapped me in her arms  
As we both tried not to cry

**I hope you have a good week with the sun returning to shine on us. For the children still learning at home I hope that you continue to enjoy your learning and**

**that you are able to spend lots of time outdoors. Most importantly everyone please stay healthy, happy and safe. I invite you to share the following prayer with your children.**

*Dear Father God, there are so many people to pray for during this time.*

*So many needs, so many requests.*

*Remind us that you can hear all the prayers,*

*you can see all the needs, and you are our provider.*

*Lord, as we face these uncertain times,*

*may you use this time to grow us in our faith and understanding of you.*

*We praise you, Lord, for your goodness, your mercy, and your love.*

*We know you share in all our worries and concerns,.*

*Let that truth give us comfort,*

*may you give us opportunities to share this with others. , Amen.*