

Newsletter

Live, love, learn

Let us spur one another of acts of love and good deeds. Hebrews 10:24

5th February 2021



Certainty and uncertainty

It feels like this is a time of great uncertainty. The Covid pandemic has disrupted, delayed or cancelled many of our normal activities including some fundamentals like school and work. It can be easy to feel anxious, nervous and upset when faced with uncertainty, especially for children. What I find useful is to focus upon the certainties and the things we can control, not the uncertainties.

It is certain that all children will return to school at some point. We have been guided to expect school restrictions to last until March the 8th at least with the promise of 2 weeks' notice of the school reopening fully. This gives us time to consider carefully and prepare for welcoming back all children, for supporting their emotional, social and physical wellbeing, for restoring the routines of school and learning.

It is certain that at some point we will be able to take part in the brilliant extra-curricular activities that we all enjoy so much. Sports clubs, trips and visits, visitors and guest speakers to school. We already have so many positive ideas to use when we are able.

It is certain that the school and our community will continue to support one another for the benefit of our families and children. Our purpose is much more than just education. We strive to build positive relationships with all and ensure the best life chances for everyone.

There have been some reports in the media of a 'lost generation' of children or that our children might lose £40,000 in earnings over their lifetime because of the missed school time.

I disagree. Our children are not lost, in fact they have found things they never knew they had. They have spent more time cooking, reading with their siblings, building bonds with their parents, exploring nature in the garden and locality, more time singing and dancing. It has caused me to reflect upon how we can enhance and enrich our school curriculum even more once we fully return.

And children are resilient, they are adaptable and they bounce back. Through the careful guidance, support and facilitation of learning of our school team **and** the parents/carers, children will recover. Through history and now we see periods of time when children could not attend school and each time we see perseverance and success for those children. The 1940's war time, the foot and mouth crisis, children who are severely ill. What allows them to be successful is not whether they know all their times tables or how neat their handwriting is, it is their desire to learn, their curiosity, their love for new information and perseverance to succeed. When children have that, they will find themselves and their talents, they will fulfil and earn their potential.

It feels hard, it feels uncertain now but there are better times to come and we will embrace, support and work through them together.

School update

We are still providing for approximately 40% of our children in school as key workers or vulnerable families. The 60% of children at home are engaging through Class Dojo and working extremely hard. Last week there were approximately 1770 (One thousand, seven hundred and seventy) pieces of work shared on Class Dojo.

The parental survey recently conducted was very successful with a good percentage of families completing it. The results were very positive with lots of praise for our teaching and school team. There were some useful suggestions and constructive criticism which we will carefully reflect upon. Thank you for taking the time to complete.

We have distributed an additional 13 digital devices to families in the last 2 weeks as well as purchasing new laptops for all teachers. This update of our technology is very welcome and represents a new investment in digital infrastructure.

Parental consultations are being offered next week via phone or Microsoft Teams. Please do book a slot with your teacher.

This week is Mental health week and you will have seen on Class Dojo and Facebook some activities and ideas to support your child's mental health and wellbeing.

The government have confirmed this week that schools will not be required to open for Key worker and vulnerable families over the half term holiday and that schools will not be required to provide school meals during half term. Despite this, we will support any family if needed. Staff have already prepared some fun, optional, keep busy activities for half term which we will share soon.

Schools will be responsible for track and trace over half term so if a child tests positive for Covid-19 during half term, you must inform us please.

What we have been up to:



Some great learning on the continents in school



Science using online tutorials on liquids and mixtures



Ted has been busy cooking after school.



Oliver's Greek theatre model



Liam's model mountain village



Otis with his art and DT work.

Anxiety UK

Charity providing support if you have been diagnosed with an anxiety condition.

Phone: 03444 775 774 (Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 5.30pm)

Website: www.anxietyuk.org.uk

CALM

CALM is the Campaign Against Living Miserably. A charity providing a mental health helpline and webchat.

Phone: 0800 58 58 58 (daily, 5pm to midnight)

Website: www.thecalmzone.net

Men's Health Forum

24/7 stress support for men by text, chat and email.

Website: www.menshealthforum.org.uk

Mental Health Foundation

Provides information and support for anyone with mental health problems or learning disabilities.

Website: www.mentalhealth.org.uk

Mind

Promotes the views and needs of people with mental health problems.

Phone: 0300 123 3393 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm)

Website: www.mind.org.uk

Samaritans

Confidential support for people experiencing feelings of distress or despair.

Phone: 116 123 (free 24-hour helpline)

Website: www.samaritans.org.uk

Refuge

Advice on dealing with domestic violence.

Phone: 0808 2000 247 (24-hour helpline)

Website: www.refuge.org.uk

Relate

The UK's largest provider of relationship support.

Website: www.relate.org.uk

Family Lives

Advice on all aspects of parenting, including dealing with bullying.

Phone: 0808 800 2222 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 9pm and Saturday to Sunday, 10am to 3pm)

Website: www.familylives.org.uk

NSPCC

Helplines

[Help for adults concerned about a child](#)

Call us on [0808 800 5000](tel:08088005000)

[Help for children and young people](#)

Call Childline on [0800 1111](tel:08001111)

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