



HAWRIDGE & CHOLESBURY CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

OUR SCHOOL VALUES: RESPECT - UNDERSTANDING – PEACE – HONESTY – RESPONSIBILITY - TEAMWORK

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'Love one another as I have loved you.' John 13:34

27th March 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

This half term's value is **Respect**

Spring Term Newsletter No. 5

This certainly has been an unusual week hasn't it? I can see from your many messages to the teachers that children (and adults) are working hard and generally adapting well to a new home schooling routine. I don't underestimate how challenging and unsettling that is for every single one of you. Well done!

Technology

Thank you for your patience this week whilst we have become fully up and running with the new class emails and with uploading work to our school website. Despite planning for this possibility a couple of weeks ago, it was bound to be different when it all went into practice! I don't think we were alone as the country suddenly felt the pressure to manage life online in a way that we haven't needed to before.

It's been great to see how individuals and whole organisations have been offering their support, from PE with Joe Wicks to online stories and even an online zoo! It is reassuring to see the community at large pull together and offer its support.

Some parents have asked if we will be offering further online interaction through platforms such as 'zoom' for example. This is something we will look into if the situation continues for a lengthier period of time and would need to explore and monitor carefully in order to ensure all our children are safeguarded.

Home School Work and Communication

During this period of school closure, our intention is to upload work for each class on to the school website (Covid19 tab) by 8am each Monday morning. In addition the teachers will aim to email it out to all of you via the class email address also by 8am Monday. Don't worry we will give you two weeks off for the Easter break!

The teachers will aim to respond to emails within 24 hours, but I am sure you will understand that there may be times when this is not possible e.g. if they are unwell or when they are in school with the key worker children. Please try to email them every day too with an update of how things are going and, even better, with the work you have done. (I know the teachers would find this more manageable if this was kept to one email each if at all possible). If the teachers do not hear from you, they will keep trying either by email or phone, primarily to make sure you are ok.

Community Spirit

I wonder how many of you stood on your doorstep, or hung out of windows (safely) clapping or saucepan banging last night to show your appreciation for the NHS and all the frontline workers to whom we are all so grateful. Despite living in a rural area, I could hear clapping, banging, fireworks and even a cannon being fired for miles all around - a very moving experience!

It has been truly heart-warming to hear some of the community acts of kindness lots of you have been up to; real examples of our treasured school values being lived in practice. Well done to all of you. Examples have included baking cakes for or sending Mr Men cards to neighbours, creating a hopscotch for people out on their daily exercise to enjoy, and our children of key workers who have been in school making cards/ writing letters to send to our kind, elderly or vulnerable volunteers to keep their spirits up at this particularly worrying time for them.

If anyone would like to share any other acts of kindness over the following week, please do email them over to the office with 'act of kindness' in the subject bar and I will try to congratulate you in future newsletters. However, please do ensure that you all keep safe and do adhere to the current Lockdown procedures whilst doing so.

Your Messages of Thanks, Offers of Support and Understanding

Thank you to all the families who have sent messages of support, thanks and offers of help. It means such a lot to us all. Thank you also for your understanding and patience as we adjust to a new way of working. It's great to see our strong H&C community supporting each other.

Our School Grounds - Bulbs Blooming!

We certainly have been blessed with sunshine for our first week of home schooling. The sun has helped all our spring flowers, planted by all of you in the autumn, come to life and they make a splendid picture. I thought you might like to see a few...



Music

The children will all know that one of our school traditions is for a member of staff to choose a piece of music each week to play in our celebration assembly. This week I have chosen 'You could have been anything that you wanted to be' from Bugsy Malone. I want to remind you all that you are capable of wonderful things and I am confident that, with your wonderful attitude, you will achieve them.

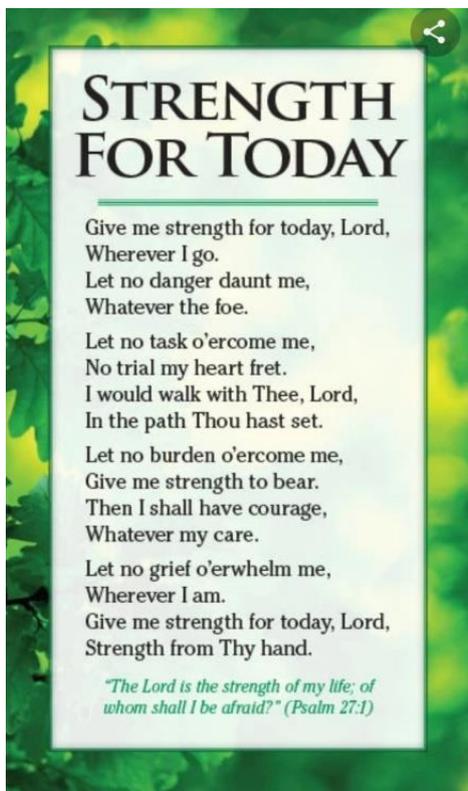
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2mT8AzdxT48>

Safety of Children

I have been made aware of an attempted kidnapping of a child under the age of 11 in Chesham, and would remind you to be extra vigilant. Please click on the link below for further details on the incident.

<https://www.mix96.co.uk/news/local/3070750/attempted-kidnap-of-child-under-11-in-chesham/>

Finally, one of our parents sent through these comforting words from Psalm 27: 1 '*The lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*' which I wanted to share with you.



I wish you all well, please be safe and look after one another.

Kind regards

Mrs R Phillips
Headteacher