



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

3rd April 2020

Dear Parents, carers and families,

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

Spring Term Newsletter No. 6

How are you all settling in to a new way of doing things? This has got to be one of the most unusual last days of term ever. I hope you all remembered that we finish an hour early on the last day of term! I can see from your many messages to the teachers that children (and adults) are still working hard and generally adapting well to a new home school routine. Is it getting any easier? Either way, it's time for a well-earned two week break. Phew! Well done for adapting and coping so well. All the staff and I are so proud of you!

Here is a random fact for you: Did you know that on this day in 1973: The first mobile phone call is made in downtown Manhattan, NYC by Motorola employee Martin Cooper to the Bell Labs headquarters in New Jersey? It's interesting to see how we are all adapting to technology which is developing to meet our ever changing needs. I never thought we would have to rely on it as much as we are!

Technology

The staff have been trying some online meetings and this morning we all shared a cup of tea together before the Easter break. Mrs White has trialled an online story time session with some children from her class which has given us some ideas of what may or may not work as we continue to explore this option as an approach for our school during this time.

Home School work and communication

I am very grateful to the teachers who have worked tirelessly responding to all your lovely emails and messages over these two weeks. They have been so impressed with how hard you are all working and you have made them smile with your positive and creative ways of tackling your learning. We plan to give you all a break over the Easter holidays, but we will still be thinking of you and look forward to resuming email contact again (or seeing you if we are open) from Tuesday 21st April. (Monday 20th is an INSET day and the staff will be completing a day's online training). The office emails will still be checked every few days so if you need support before the 21st, please use that email address to contact us.

We await news from the government about the status of schools after the Easter break, but if the situation continues and we remain closed we are changing our procedures a little. From the summer term, for the period of time we remain closed our expectations will be as follows:

- Parents/ children please email work to the class email address twice a week (but do ask questions in between should you need to).
- Staff will aim to respond to work twice a week and to queries as they arise.
- Staff will phone and/ or send follow up emails to families they haven't heard from during the week.
- Work coming home will be more project based with additional maths and SPAG (PiXL)

Hopefully, this will become more manageable for both teachers and families; we will continue to review.

In addition, Mrs Davey is hopeful that she will be able to set up all children on Nessy's digital learning platform over the Easter holidays so the children have another program they can use at home to continue their learning for phonics, reading, spelling and writing. Please email the office to let us know if you **do not** want your child to be included in this by Monday 6th April.

Government advice

I am sure you are all being very careful to follow government advice, but it's always helpful to be reminded of things especially when they continue for a little while. The government and NHS advice is to Stay Home Stay Safe. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Mental Health and E-safety

This is a challenging time for every single one of us and I am sure you are all too aware of the importance of looking after your own mental health as well as your children's. Mrs Woodward, one of our SENDCos has put together a 'Wellbeing' pack which is attached to this newsletter and on our school website together with some additional resources and links. There are two websites in particular that I would like to draw your attention to

<https://www.bps.org.uk/news-and-policy/bps-highlights-importance-talking-children-about-coronavirus>

The DECP published advice on how to talk to children about coronavirus. Their advice is summarised as:

- Be truthful but remember your child's age.
- Allow children to ask questions.
- Try to manage your own worries.
- Give practical guidance e.g. how to wash your hands

We are all being forced to turn to the internet far more than previously so it has never been more important than now to be checking our children are safe online. I urge you to stick to age limit rules for individual gaming and social media sites and to be involved with your child's online life as much as possible. Remember to sign out of online meeting platforms such as Zoom otherwise others can still see you, your home and/ or your family.

https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/staying-safe-online/?in_type=under12service

Community spirit

This week our key worker children have made Easter cards for the elderly volunteers who support our school on a regular basis. I know they will be delighted to receive those through the post. Many of you will be making extra telephone calls, some of them video calls to the elderly, vulnerable members of your families/communities who are completely self-isolating. I know some of the children in Mrs Montesinos' and Mrs Walker's class have told her all about it. Well done! It will be making such a huge difference to them at this especially difficult time.

One of our children has been decorating pebbles and leaving them out on her daily walk for others to see whilst on their daily exercise. Windmills children have started 'Thoughtful Thursdays' and have been sharing their kind actions with Mrs Wale which have included helping their parents or writing letters to friends and relatives. Mrs Wale said that parents in the class have commented on how kind the children are.

Some of the Year 4 children have made rainbow posters and lego structures to put in their windows to show support to others. Others have set up a 'buddy club competition' whilst some families have established their own Family Book club.

These acts are perfect examples of the caring, thoughtful school that all of you are part of. Well done to everyone; I feel so proud to be your Head teacher. Do keep letting us know so that we can continue to celebrate. Staff in school were delighted last week when The Blackhorse pub arrived at school with lunch for them. What a lovely thought, we are so grateful, thank you very much.

This week's music

Continuing our school tradition, this week's music was chosen by all the staff because they know it is one of the children's favourites and because whilst the music is uplifting, the lyrics seem particularly poignant at the moment. The children will be able to show the actions if you are not sure, so please join in and enjoy 'My Lighthouse'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1FBZJGSgyVQ>



Finally, I would like to wish you all a safe, healthy and happy Holy week and Easter at home. Your teachers will not be setting work for the holiday period but may send some ideas to help keep everyone occupied in what will be a different 'staycation' for us all. I leave you with Psalm 46..

Kind regards

Mrs R Phillips
Headteacher

