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17th April 2020

Dear Parents,

I am in school typing my weekly newsletter today with the aim of keeping you up to speed on what is happening in school and to share with you some more tips on managing home learning during this COVID – 19 lock down.

The children in school have helped to make their very own large rainbow which has been waterproofed and is now hanging on the school railings for all to see. The wording is Thank you to our NHS and all KEY WORKERS. Many of you have already seen the rainbow and commented positively on it. Thank you to all our parents who are in lockdown and only going out when it is safe to do so for food, medicine or exercise. I would like to say a special thank you to staff who are on rotas to come in school to provide 'Educare' or are at home preparing work, writing reports and carrying out online training. A number of staff are also needing to shield children or adults who have complex medical conditions so they are unable to come in to school for any of our Educare rotas but are busy working from home.

On the school website, there are plenty of age appropriate resources that teachers have posted for you to use with your child. Please continue to use them and to work practically with your child to achieve the activities that have been suggested. Five weeks of learning suggestions are already there for you and staff will be posting more too and are trying to mimic the progression of learning that would be happening at school if it was safe for your child to be here. Please do make sure that you take time out to support your child with their learning so that when we return, they will be in a strong position to progress with learning and won't have any gaps. For those parents who want additional guidance and structure, there are some useful free resources online from the TES. Search for TES home learning and then click on the Primary resources and look for KS1 (Key stage 1) which covers our Willow, Beech, Poplar, Sycamore, Holly and Elm classes and also EYFS resources for Cedar, Oak and Ash. There are great ideas for Maths and English that are age appropriate with resources that can be printed out if you require them. Learning activities from the TES home learning package will complement the learning activities that the teachers have set for the children.

With increased use of and access to the internet, I wanted to provide parents with a handy resource to help you and your child work safely online. Go to <u>https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk</u> This website has sections that are age appropriate for all children and young people with advice and an online safety film called 'Jessie and friends'. There are also helpful links on our school website to support online safety.









There may be increased difficulties within the family at this time, especially if you are all indoors where patience can sometimes be 'shredded'. The NSPCC offer a telephone helpline on 0808 800 5000 or to find out more you can go to nspcc.org.uk/schools Here you can find the Talk Pants resource which helps children to keep themselves safe and recognise any inappropriate touching. Earlier this week you will have received a personal letter from your child's teacher and teaching assistant and I know these were gratefully received. Staff are going to write another letter so look out for that on Monday.

In school we have our KIND HANDS, KIND FEET, KIND WORDS AND KIND ACTIONS which has been supplemented with WASH HANDS FREQUENTLY AND KEEP 2m DISTANCE FROM PEOPLE WHO DON'T LIVE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD. You may find it helpful to use these rules at home as the children are very familiar with them and respond well to praise for following the rules. Please remember to send in any poems or pictures that you want to share on our school website. My Head Teacher challenge for the week ahead is to make a pictorial or written collage of the sounds that can be heard when inside the house with a window open. It would be great to see examples on the website which can then inspire others with the challenge. Happy listening!

Keep safe, well and happy!

Yours sincerely,

E.A. Hill

Mrs E A Hill <u>Head Teacher</u>