



Hyde Park Infant School

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Dear Parents,

I have been liaising with staff and many of you and have been impressed with how inventive you have been in managing in a positive way, the situation we find ourselves in. Please make sure that you look on your child's class page (and any other classes) on the website as staff are putting up pictures of learning at home which is a great way of sharing ideas and celebrating efforts. Well done for all your efforts as I realise that there are pressures from all directions to support your child(ren) not only with their learning but their mental health and wellbeing too as well as managing with all the lockdown regulations that are currently in place. The staff have been busy filming themselves reading a poem and some staff have also voiced some follow up activities. These will shortly be available in the class folder on the website and I feature on there too with a poem about bees. There will be 20 poems in all so do look on the NEWS section if you want to hear them all. As usual, please look out for the class teacher's newsletter on Monday. This week has been 'Week 6' for learning and 'Week 7' will be posted for you. Please be aware that all schools in Plymouth will not be posting work for the May half term holiday. In school we are providing 'educare' for front line key worker's children and on that half term week where there will be a distinct party atmosphere whilst following all the necessary social distancing rules and hygiene rules too.

Safety online – I have been informed that there has been a hacking of a group zoom meeting with an unpleasant intrusion that has been reported to the police. If you are using any communication systems like this, please ensure that it is a closed group access by invitation only to known persons and remain in the same room so that you can close down a 'situation' should it occur.

In school we are 'at capacity' supporting front line key workers. I wait to see what the PM has to say on Sunday night and will write to you personally when any changes occur.

I have received some pictures of work and growing that has been achieved at the school allotment and Mr Fitzpatrick has kindly agreed to share them with you. Many of the vegetable seeds have sprouted and are thriving and the blossom on the apple trees has been great this year. There are two pictures, a before and after. It is great to hear of good news stories and lovely that nature is providing such joys for us all at this time of year.





Talking of nature, I received a thank you from the RSPB for taking part in the Big Garden Birdwatch earlier this year. Well done to all the children who took part and to those that had a go at spotting the birds but didn't get around to filling in the identification form. 9 of our top 20 birds are in decline and sadly, many of our birds and wildlife are still in trouble. However, it seems that this COVID-19 outbreak has had positive effects on birds and wildlife so hopefully there will be some more positive news in the future.

COVID – 19 is impacting on us all in different ways as we hear about people that we know who have contracted the virus or who have sadly died. I am aware that there are families in the school who have relatives who are in mourning as a result of this indiscriminate virus and want them and others to know that we have professional access to qualified professionals who can support children and families who find themselves in this very sad and distressing situation. Please e-mail into school where your request for support will be dealt with quickly and confidentially.

During these times, I have found it helpful to look for the positives in each day and have enjoyed watching the blue tits fly in and out of my bird box, the blossom on the fruit trees and the bees in my garden going out on foraging flights. Looking for the positive has been severely challenged when my husband not only mowed the lawn but also most of my tender plants and seedlings that were in the flower beds! However, I have got over it and felt quite ashamed as many people are dealing with such challenging situations and difficulties.

So, on this Friday afternoon as I sit in my office can I send Happy Birthday greetings to all the children who would normally have been sitting on the birthday bench at school. I will save their stickers for when I see them next and give them the birthday experience in school of a song and blowing out of the candles. I think of all our Hyde Park families as I clap my hands on a Thursday night and I wish you all well as you manage as best as you can in these challenging times.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs E A Hill
Head Teacher