

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 24th April 2020.

Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils and Staff,

I hope you have had a good first week of the Summer Term. When I read that sentence it feels so strange not having seen you in person. This time last year who would have predicted school and family life would be quite so disrupted in this way and that we would become so reliant on using technology for remote teaching, learning and working which is becoming the 'new normal' for so many organisations and schools.

Our whole school community is working hard to rise to the challenge presented by Covid-19 and as a school our priority to serve our families and our community in the best way we possibly can remains our mission. As a learning community, teachers are being brave and have themselves embraced new learning. Many are beginning to attempt live teaching using our Microsoft Teams platform. Next week we plan to record some short sessions to further support home learning. For children to see their teachers faces, even for a quick hello, perhaps just to sing a song with our youngest pupils, this helps us feel connected and the children to understand we are still here for them.

Although many news reports and newspapers are speculating about when and how lockdown measures will be eased or lifted, it is really important to remember why we need to stay at home: ultimately to save lives and stay safe. As we now come to the end of week three of remote teaching, learning and working, I have reflected on some the positives. It feels as though staff and families are really beginning to connect, form even stronger relationships and communicate better than ever. I feel tremendous support being offered to one another, reaching out as a community and I hope you feel this too. We all share the same priority to ensure all our children are happy, safe, well and engaging in fun activities for lifelong learning.

You may recall my message in previous newsletters; many of us have a traditional view of learning and what it was like for us when we were at school. We envisage learning as writing and recording in a formal, academic style. At a time of uncertainty, this style can sometimes add stress to the home learning situation, as many children are not yet at this formal stage. There are many facets to learning and, supported by you, we strive to deliver teaching and learning in its widest sense; to facilitate learning through activities involving exploration, play, investigating, building, making, being creative, repetition and problem solving to name a few.

So...what have we been up to this week? I hope you enjoy the many photographs being shared and do please keep sending them to us. They make our day!

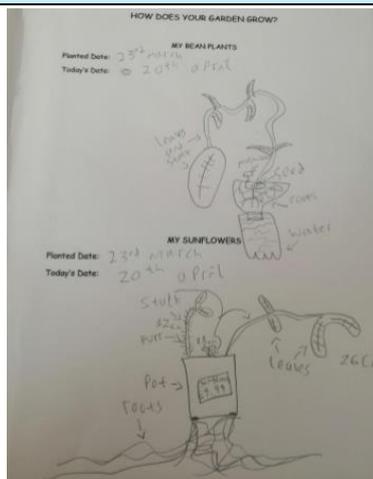
Some of the great things that have been happening at home this week ...



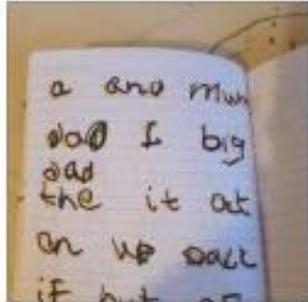
Being active in the garden - balancing learning time with movement breaks is very important.



I love the creativity that Rhys is using to show his support of our frontline workers.

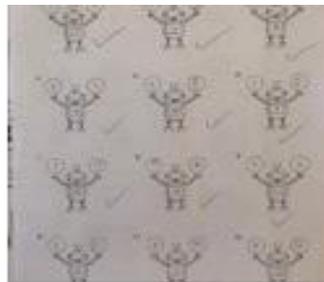


Jimmy has been planting, growing and measuring beans. So has Ms Webster, but I wonder whose bean plant grew the tallest?



A fantastic work system set up at home, following the TEACCH approach, has helped support home learning in busy bee class.

Thomas has been so busy this week...and well done to mum and dad too !



Many of our staff are undertaking home learning with their children too, so we do not underestimate how challenging this can be at times. Thank you so much to all our parents and carers for your patience, understanding and working so brilliantly with us. Happy weekend to you all. Please stay safe, well and healthy.

L. Ives
Mrs Laura Ives
(Head of School)