



Stratford – Sub – Castle Church of England VC Primary School

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Life in all its fullness

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Dear All

Happy Easter!

Usually at this time of the year I travel about 350 miles north, to Northumberland, to get together with my family. Traditionally, we meet with those family members, whom we missed catching-up with at Christmas. My favourite childhood, Easter memory, is of playing family games of rounders in a field behind my auntie's house and having to be very careful to dodge the 'cow-pats'! Sometimes, the ball would land in a very interesting place! After the game we would go for long walks and find as much frog spawn as possible.

This Easter, is of course, very different. Different for all of us, in a variety of different ways. I know you will have had your plans severely curtailed and altered by the 'CCS', as I like to call it. 'The 'Current Covid Situation'!

It's easy to think about what we are missing out on. I really missed our Easter Service last Friday, I did sing 'Bread and Fishes' to myself though! I really missed wishing everyone a, 'Happy Easter', as they walked out of the gate for a well-earned break. I know Y6 particularly are missing out on all the things they've been looking forward to for a good while and rightly so. I don't know what the future holds, but Y6 be assured you will get a Leavers' Service and we'll have to start some new traditions as well... no matter what!

Meanwhile, I hope you are all able to make some good memories for yourselves, during this extraordinary time. Each day is precious. As you get out for your daily exercise, I am sure you have been noticing the blossom, the bees and the beauty of nature all around us. Nature, really seems to be enjoying the reduced pollution levels. I hope you have been reminded how precious your family and friends are, even if you have only managed short conversations or a quick wave as they cycle past! It's a good lesson for us all.

The Easter Story is one of hope. I hope that everyone in our school community and beyond can nurture their own version of hope during the 'CCS'. Frog-spawn, bees, flowers, good memories and people young and old, do it for me. If you'd like to share your own inspiration or write a message to everyone, I would be very happy to include it in future 'Community Newsletters'.

Please read on for the news this week and a message from Mrs Watkins and Mrs Aylett.

Also attached to this letter is information I've been asked to pass on by the Local Authority. This is about on-line safety and information about accessing medical support this weekend and in an emergency.

News (week commencing 06.04.20)

The school continues to run on a skeleton staff, for children of key workers and for those who have different individual needs and challenges. This week the team caring for our pupils has been Mrs Watkins, Miss Smith, Miss Griffiths and Mrs Ray. Mrs Davidson and Mrs Munt also continue to pop in and out at various times! As mentioned, the school is remaining open through-out the planned Easter holiday period (Monday 6th April – Friday 17th April).

Mrs Ray celebrated her birthday in school and was treated to an impromptu birthday party; including musical statues. Other activities this week have included making papier mâché Easter eggs, constructing a monster marble run and making a 'Flying Friend -ship'! This was part of thinking about our friends and what makes a good friend.

I know that Mrs Watkins has managed to 'check-in', with some of you this week. She enjoyed some good chats along the way and is pleased to hear that many of you are getting the balance of work and play just right! Next week, it will be me, making phone calls and the week after Mrs Munt will be taking over. If we or you haven't been in touch via email or phone; please let us know how you are getting on. Remember we are here for you and will try to support you in what ever way we can. We are getting constant updates and information from central and local government, so please let us know if you require any information or advice.

If you keep in touch via the class e-mail, thank you, that is a good way of keeping in contact too! I know the teachers continue to enjoy seeing and hearing about what you have been up to. We are keen to keep the school community in touch with each other as much as possible. Next week the teachers will be sending out a class newsletter, so that is something to look forward to.



Rainbow Art



The 'Flying Friend-ship'

I did hear on the grapevine that some of you have been holding your own version of Smiley Face Assembly on a Friday. That is lovely to hear about. If you are holding your own assemblies you may want to use the resources available on the school website. Go to **ABOUT US** (Our community) then scroll down to **VALUES AND ETHOS** and from here go across to the **WORSHIP** tab. Here you will find the 'School Prayer' and videos of Sarah and Daniel from the Bridge Project, with some reflections on Easter, amongst other stuff.

A message from Mrs Watkins

Dear All,

I hope you are all well and staying safe, I am missing you all. I have been in school for just over a week now, with some of the children whose parents are key workers. It is very different and very quiet! A school isn't a school without all of the people, especially children and the wonderful buzz of learning.

I have had time to do some filing and tidy my desk, which has been amazing. I've also enjoyed talking to some of your parents on the phone and waved at parents, children and volunteer helpers as they've walked past the school. To be honest I've waved at complete strangers too. I've also spent a lot of time with Mrs Bridson on the phone! I think we're missing each other.

I know some of you are doing amazing things with your time. As you know I love reading. Remember time passes very quickly, once you're inside a book!

Happy Easter Stratford.



A message from Mrs Aylett

Hello, Everyone

I hope you are all enjoying the wonderful weather and are finding out lots about what's in your neighbourhood. I've been learning new songs, mainly silly ones, from Gareth Malone and Voices 8, which I'm really looking forward to sharing with you.

I've also been gardening, walking, learning Italian and watching the animals at Chester Zoo. I'd love it if you were singing – anything at all, because singing makes us feel better! If you've learned any new songs, you'll be able to share them with us all, one day.

Have a lovely Easter – very different from normal but I hope you have all found new things to do.

Finally stay safe and stay positive.

Love, peace and joy to all.

Kay Bridson

