



Stratford – Sub – Castle Church of England VC Primary School

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Life in all its fullness

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Friday 15th May 2020

Dear All

An awful lot has occurred since this time last week. Here we are 'slap-bang' in the middle of a time of flux. The announcement, by the government, that a phased return of primary schools, will commence from Monday 1st June, has certainly caused a stir! Any sort of change can be unsettling, but it seems especially disconcerting during this most *discombobulating* of times, (it is a real word you can check it in the dictionary)!

We've managed to get through the last few months pretty well as a school community, so I hope we can continue to work together effectively, to get through this next phase. I know this has been difficult for different people, in different ways. Thank you and well done, whatever your contribution.

I sent out a letter, earlier this week, asking for thoughts regarding 'returns' to school either on Monday June 1st or at some point thereafter. Mrs. Watkins has been co-ordinating your forms. I would like to thank her for all her hard work in doing this. I know she has endeavoured to answer all questions and concerns, as best she can, by return of e-mail. She has worked her little socks off and has been a great support to me. Thank you, Mrs. Watkins!

Thank you, also to all those who returned their forms by 13:00 today. The vast majority of forms were returned. They are a great help in planning the phased opening of the school. If you missed this deadline, or were unable to complete the form, please e-mail the relevant information to Mrs Watkins, as soon as possible. It **doesn't have to be on the actual form**. Contact her on: **jwatkins@stratford-sub-castle.wilts.sch.uk**

Meanwhile, I have been reading the government guidance, measuring the usable, floor space in all our classrooms and group rooms and beginning to draw up a risk assessment. Obviously, the fine detail is yet to be finalised. Once we have a better idea of how many children will be returning on or after Monday 1st June 2020, I will be able to share the 'nuts and bolts' with you. If you wish to look at some of the information, provided by the government, for yourself please go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-schools-and-other-educational-settings>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

Some initial thoughts/ information to share with you...

- most of the classrooms can't fit more than 10 pupils in them, when the 2m rule is applied (except Robin Class, which is larger)
- most families are happy for their children to return to school, so this means a rota system, of some sort, will be necessary for many children
- full-time places will be allocated to the children of key workers and other designated groups first and then spread out as far as possible
- if the offer we can make, does not work for some individual families, then it may be necessary to ask the Local Authority to help us find alternative provision (places at another school / venue for some children)
- a staggered approach will need to be adopted to the beginning and the end of the day, so that adults can socially distance, we will take into account siblings
- currently, no-one will be penalised for not sending their child to school. The government is recommending the return of EYFS, Y1 and Y6 pupils on 1st June, but it is not a statutory requirement
- if, on June 1st and a place was requested, but there is a change of heart, that is OK with us. It is your prerogative to change your mind. Every individual must make their own decisions at this time
- please remember, if you change your mind at any point, for any reason, we will try to accommodate you at a later stage, but we may not be able to do this, 'at the drop of a hat'.

I will be in touch as soon as our plans are ready to share. I know Mrs Watkins wants to contact some families and have a chat with you about your particular circumstances, she will be on the phone and the e-mail next week!

News (week commencing 11.05.20)

Our 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 Miss Crook, Mrs Waters, Mrs Ford, Mrs Watson and Mrs Webb. Mrs Munt has also been in the school office all week and Mrs Davidson supports, in the afternoons and evenings. **Thank you all for your continued hard work.**

This week the children in school have been using the theme 'Super-heroes' to inspire their learning. Miss Crook and Mrs Waters report that the staff and the children really enjoyed this. They made a giant picture

which can be hooked onto the gate. Hopefully it will be outside for all the passers-by to see next week. See it below for yourself.



Week 8 (11th May – 15th May)	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
SCHOOL TOTAL	20 pupils	22 pupils	24 pupils	22 pupils	16 pupils

As you can see, the numbers of children attending school has remained pretty consistent again this week. Once again, I would also like to pay tribute to those of you who continue to keep your children at home. You are also doing your bit! You help to keep our staff as safe as possible during this tricky time.

Words from someone other than me...

Following the 'I Spy' challenge sent out last week. Mrs Munns, one of our volunteer helpers who also doubles up as a grandparent contacted me with a really good idea. Here is her e-mail...

Dear Friends at Stratford

I am so pleased to hear that you are keeping well and continuing to support the Stratford Community.

You have inspired me to collect photographs of wild flowers on my daily walk. I am going to collect photos all through the year and make a photo book at the end of 2020.

Luckily, Avon Valley Nature Reserve is full of wild flowers and beautiful trees and I have been lucky enough to see water voles, the Cuckoo, foxes, deer, toads, squirrels, rabbits, a hedgehog and a green woodpecker there.

Love to you all. Anne Munns.

Have you managed to spy any wild-life?

A message from Revd. Sarah Wood-Roe

Hello Everyone,

I hope that you are all staying safe and well. I am sure that those of you who haven't been to school since it closed are really missing everything about it. I know that I really miss seeing all of you and I miss Sub Club – I will be so pleased when we can all be together again!

One my highlights of the last few weeks was the VE Day 75th anniversary celebrations last Friday. I grew up with stories of my grandparents telling me just how wonderful VE Day was – the joy, the relief, the celebrations. But I also remember them telling me how uncertain everything was as the Second World War came to an end. What was going to happen next? How would the world recover? Would things ever be the same again?

75 years on from VE Day and we are once again asking ourselves those same questions due to Coronavirus. We are all living with feelings of uncertainty and like the picture is constantly changing. Yet, I really hope that all of you know that we are, and will continue to support all of you through this time. One of the things that I have always loved about Stratford is the sense that we are all in this together; no-one is left behind, we support and champion one another – we are a community. Just as Jesus taught his followers – we love and care for one another. So, even though we still remain apart, even though the picture is changing and uncertain, we have one another and we will all get through it – together!

In the meantime, the whole school community remains very much in my daily prayers and I really hope that it is not too long before we can all see one another again.

With my prayers and blessings to you all,
Sarah



*Love, peace and joy to all. Missing everyone!
Mrs Kay Bridson*

Termly Topic: May / June 2020

Termly Topic: The Termly Topic this time is based on...

'Celebrations and Commemorations'

A **celebration** is a special, enjoyable event that people organise because something pleasant has happened or because it is someone's birthday or anniversary.
Synonyms: party, festival, gala, jubilee.

A **commemoration** is the means by which an important event or person is remembered. It could be by a special action such as a ceremony or service or by a specially created object.
Synonyms: celebrate, remember, honour, recognise.

You may want to focus on something personal to you and your family, or use some of the things happening locally, nationally or internationally to inspire you. For example:

Salisbury 800 (According to legend, eight centuries ago, an archer stood atop of the hill at Old Sarum and shot an arrow into the valley to the south. The story goes that the arrow, remarkably, landed two miles away, marking the location of what would become Salisbury Cathedral. 2020 has been earmarked as a year of celebration. People are being encouraged to commemorate the beginnings of one of the most iconic landmarks in the world).

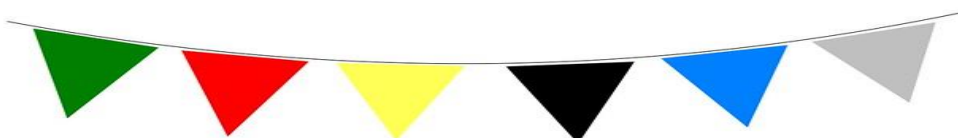


Send a photograph of your work to us via your class e-mail if you can!!! We would love to see it. You **MUST** make sure that something is in your book as a record of your topic. This could be a photo of your work or you could write about what you did! However, you may also like to do the whole topic in your book; it is up to you!

Please ensure some writing is included as part of your topic in some way!

The deadline for completing topics is **FRIDAY 5th JUNE 2020**.

This is compulsory for Y4, Y5 and Y6 and optional for all other year groups.



Termly Topic: April/ May 2020

Termly Topic: The Termly Topic this term is based on RAINBOWS.

Imagine there was just a huge rainstorm. You were safe from the rain in your house, but you looked outside as soon as it ended. The sun was just starting to come out from behind the clouds, and the rain was starting to end. During this special moment, however, you see a beautiful sight- a rainbow!

Rainbows are considered to be one of nature's most special gifts, with many paintings and photographs taken of them. They have also inspired many poems, songs, and other types of art. What is it about these gorgeous arches that make us love them so much?

Rainbows normally appear from the rain, but they can happen wherever light is being bent inside of water droplets. Rainbows can be seen in mist, fog, spray, and dew.

Rainbows are made up of all seven colours that come from light. These colours are **red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet.**

This time you might want to...

- Find out some facts about rainbows
- Have a go at some experiments involving light
- Learn about rainbows in the Bible
- Do a project based on one or more of the colours of the rainbow
- Write a poem or story inspired by rainbows
- Create some rainbow art.

Send a photograph of your work to us via your class e-mail if you can!!! We would love to see it.

You MUST make sure that something is in your book as a record of your topic. This could be a photo of your work or you could write about what you did! However, you may also like to do the whole topic in your book; it is up to you!

Please ensure some writing is included as part of your topic in some way!

The deadline for completing topics is **FRIDAY 1st MAY 2020.**

This is compulsory for Y4, Y5 and Y6 and optional for all other year groups.

Finally stay safe and stay positive.

Love, peace and joy to all.

Kay Bridson

