



Stratford – Sub – Castle Church of England VC Primary School

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Life in all its fullness

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Friday 17th April 2020

Dear All

Happy Friday! Just in case you've lost track of which day it is; it's Friday again!

This week I have been on the phone to lots of families and it's been lovely to catch up with so many of you. There is lots of gardening going on. I think the gardens of this fair land must be in the best condition ever! There are quite a few clean windows too.

I did also hear about some of you building dens, knitting blankets for babies, writing letters to your friends and completing Beaver badges. Some great ideas. It's lovely to hear that you've kept busy, enjoyed the recent run of good weather and the activities provided on the website too. I know Mrs Watkins and the teachers have been working hard to make this as accessible as possible.

Mathletics continues to be popular as are the *comic strips* and the *Pobble* pictures for story writing. We've tried to provide as many open-ended tasks as possible; so that children can get involved in the things that interest them and allow them to get absorbed. We have steered away from work sheets as, quite frankly, they can take 5 minutes to complete and no real activity or thinking has taken place. A few ticks on a page doesn't necessarily mean anything has been achieved. We also do not want anyone to feel they have continually to print off sheets and sheets of paper. Better to use a piece of paper to draw an amazing picture, design something or write a story or letter.

Please use the website as a 'buffet' of ideas. Short bursts of things are good, if you are trying to learn times tables, for example. A top tip is... when your child (or parent, or grandma or dog or goldfish) goes quiet and is absorbed in something – leave them alone and do not interrupt them! We all need a bit of space inside our own heads. Even goldfish!

I get the impression talking to you, that many of you are trying not to inundate the teachers with e-mails. However, they have all told me they are looking forward to hearing from more of you, so please do keep in touch. We would like to send out more Class Newsletters so we need your news and pictures to put in them please!

If you fancy writing an article for either the **Class Newsletter** or the **Parish Magazine**, please get your contributions in by **Thursday 23rd April!**



The cherry tree in 'The Den'



One of the boards outside school

News (week commencing 13.04.20)

This week the team caring for our pupils has been Mrs Richards, Mrs Clee, Miss Robinson and Miss Hardiman (and me; mostly on the phone). Early Birds has run as usual, but no one has stayed for Night Owls.

I thought you might be interested to know how many children have been coming to school, so look at the following...

Week 1 (23rd March – 27th March)	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
SCHOOL TOTAL	18	11	13	10	9

Week 2 (30th March – 3rd April)	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
SCHOOL TOTAL	10	7	8	7	5

Week 3 (6th April – 10th April): Holiday Week 1	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
SCHOOL TOTAL	1	5	3	5	2

Week 4 (13th April – 17th April) Holiday Week 2	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
SCHOOL TOTAL	2	9	9	12	9

As you can see, each day / week has been very different. This week two new pupils have joined us whilst the CCS (Current Covid Situation) continues. Unfortunately, their private school has closed down leaving their parents who are Key Workers, high and dry. I would like to thank all the staff for taking this in their stride and to all our remaining pupils, who have helped the boys, settle in.

This week the children in school have made kites, with varying degrees of success. Some flew brilliantly I have to say! They also did some weaving and made board games. Following that, the board games were played and we continue to play them, especially now the rain has arrived. Some of the games are based on school (Move 4 places to the Happy Book) and some are based on Star Wars. It's good fun to hum the theme tune as you play it!

A message from Revd. Sarah Wood-Roe (School Governor and Vicar)

Hello Everyone,

I wanted to send you a little message to say that I hope that you are all well and to wish you a very Happy Easter!

I know that life under lockdown means that Easter felt very different this year, with many of us not being able to see our friends or other members of our family. However, I do hope that you were able to enjoy the time together and the amazing weather. Having given up chocolate for Lent, cracking open my Easter egg on Easter Sunday morning was a moment of pure happiness for me – let's not dwell on the fact that I then ate it in record time and felt rather full afterwards!

Whatever our beliefs, Easter is always about a celebration of new life and so is a hopeful time of year. The Christian celebration of Jesus's resurrection from the dead always coincides with the beginning of spring when we see the natural world come to life around us. The dark, cold days of winter give way to the longer, warmer days of spring – that is hopeful. The flowerbeds that had no sign of life in them over winter are now springing into life – that is hopeful. Easter also reminds us of the power of love.

Again, from the Christian perspective it is about the triumph of God's love for all people. Yet in the midst of this Coronavirus crisis, we are also being reminded of our capacity to love and care for others; the selfless love, care and sacrifice being made by our NHS and care workers in the care for the sick; the neighbour dropping off shopping to a vulnerable person; the fundraising efforts of 99 year old Captain Tom Moore, walking 100 laps of his garden to raise money for the NHS. At the time of writing, he has raised £14 million!

This time of year, then reminds us of the gift of life and the power of love. As difficult as this time in our history is, let us not lose hope. Better times of joy, freedom, and a renewed understanding that we should show love to our neighbours and therefore new life will come from it.

In the meantime, please stay safe and well, please be assured of my prayers for you all and do contact me if I can be of any help to you – I am always here!

With my prayers and best wishes,

Sarah

A reminder from Mr Mills (School Governor)

There is a live feed on the Salisbury Cathedral website of the peregrine falcons nesting on the Cathedral tower. The female is currently sitting on four eggs and these should be hatching at the end of the month (or so)!

Ad · www.salisburycathedral.org.uk/peregrine/live-cam ▾

Peregrine Falcons UK | Salisbury Peregrine Falcons

Our resident **peregrines** are so popular they even have their own YouTube channel. These powerful birds of prey have made the **Cathedral** their home. Enjoy amazing views.

A message from Catherine (Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra)

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra is currently working with our community choir to record a version of *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*. We are very excited about this project and wanted to get children from all over the South West featured. We would love them to create some imaginative rainbow artwork to feature in the music video. Please see below for details.

Details:

- The deadline for paintings/pictures/any type of creation is **Monday 20th April 2020 at 17:00 to this email address: schools@bsorchestra.co.uk**
- By sending in the artwork you will be giving permission for your child's work to be used and broadcasted online.
- If you wish, your child can feature in the photo holding their artwork and/or put their name on the work. You sending this image to us will act as your permission for us to use your child's image and/or name on our online video. Please only instruct us on submission of the picture if you wish otherwise.
- Send in your submissions electronically as photos, scans or a PDF Document
- We also welcome submissions from school groups who are still in school and would be delighted to share your school name!

We very much look forward to seeing your fantastic work!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

All the best,
Catherine

A message from Rosemary (Stratford-sub-Castle village website)

Hello

We would like the children to know how much we appreciate the decorations currently outside the school entrance. There is a photo on the Home Page of our Community Website so that those people who are house-bound can see it.

All very best wishes
from Rosemary
Stratford sub Castle Village Website

Here is a link to connect to the Stratford sub Castle Village Website
www.stratfordsubcastle.org.uk

Stratford sub Castle Village Website

Stratford sub Castle local events; news; clubs & organisations; hire the reading room - our village hall; local history; walks; nature; contact us
sscvillagewebsite@gmail.com

www.stratfordsubcastle.org.uk

Finally stay as happy as you are able. Be good to yourself (say nice things to yourself in your head) Have the best CCS weekend you can!

Love, peace and joy to all.

Kay Bridson

