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Dear All

Our theme for reflection this term is PERSEVERENCE! We all have to use so much of the stuff now. There is no getting away from it... things are tough!

It is tough for all the people working from home and tough for all the people working at school. Wherever you are, whatever your circumstances, things are not easy and they are certainly not ideal.

Have you noticed? Things are not ideal!

So with that in mind... let us remember that we are all trying our best, under less than ideal circumstances. I know the teachers are working very hard to work with all the children in their class whether they are at home or in school. When the technology does not work or they are pressed for time I know they feel frustrated, guilty and tired.

I am sure that all the children at home are doing their best and the adults too. I know when the technology does not work, you do not understand something, or when things do not quite go to plan you may feel frustrated, guilty and tired too!

General feedback seems to point towards lots of families feeling overwhelmed so we have decided to build in more opportunities for consolidation and well-being.

What a situation! Please read this plea from my heart to all of you...

1. Do what you can but do not feel pressurised into doing more than you can comfortably do. Young children require a lot of attention – that is why we teach EYFS, Y1 and Y2 in small groups. All the teachers completely understand how hard/ impossible it is to home school and work from home at the same time.
2. The important thing through this is that we all keep safe... physically and mentally. We all have different pressures and live in different circumstances – we are not here to judge you!
3. Remember we are social beings and young children should not (ideally) be glued to a computer screen for hours on end. One size does not fit all...adapt what the teachers set, if you need to! Make it work for you and yours!
4. All children have had their education and lives disrupted by this pandemic, whether they are currently at school or at home. I firmly believe they will all be able to bounce back, over time. I hope that they will have learned how precious their 'normal life' is and be able to appreciate their friends, teachers and families now and in the future.

Let's top up our perseverance levels by remembering that we are TEAM STRATFORD and we will get through this together. Let us know if we can help and please remember the teachers are working hard and they are humans stuck in the middle of this too!

They understand!



FOSS NEWS: The 100 Club Results for January are as follows...

1st - Amy Howes c/o Ellie (Butterfly Class) - £35.00 - Ball 1

2nd - Sophie Budd c/o Henry (Owl Class) - £22.50 - Ball 51

3rd - Jo Young c/o Rory (Robin Class) - £17.50 - Ball 22

Congratulations to all our winners this month and many thanks to all involved.

Staff Testing (asymptomatic)

From this weekend, the staff are playing their part in the battle to prevent the community transmission of COVID-19 by people who are asymptomatic. Staff members have received their test kits and are ready to proceed. They will be self-testing at home twice a week. It will be interesting to see what comes up!

For detailed information go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-asymptomatic-testing-for-staff-in-primary-schools-and-nurseries/rapid-asymptomatic-coronavirus-covid-19-testing-for-staff-in-primary-schools-school-based-nurseries-and-maintained-nursery-schools>

This week in pictures...



Fun in the snow!



Balancing lions and tigers!



Woodpecker Class made peacocks this week. Georgia and Mia created these colouring birds.



Arthur created this rather thoughtful cat.



Leigh showed her flair for colour by painting this rather happy looking cat.



Owl Class made plasticine figures this week. Some were Florence Nightingale and others are Mary Seacole.



This week, Robin Class have been learning about the sun, Earth and moon. The class learned how the moon orbits the Earth and the Earth orbits the sun. Then the class made moving models. Ernest made this one!

The Serenity Prayer

*God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can;
and wisdom to know the difference.*

*Living one day at a time;
enjoying one moment at a time;
accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;
taking, as He did, this sinful world
as it is, not as I would have it;
trusting that He will make all things right
if I surrender to His Will;
that I may be reasonably happy in this life
and supremely happy with Him
forever in the next.*

Amen.

Hang on in there folks. Spring is on its way!
Love, peace and joy to you all.



Kay Bridson

