



*Life in all its fullness*

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Friday 10th July 2020

Dear All

Seven days of the academic year remain! The school closes on **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July**, in what must be the strangest circumstances in the history of the school. The vast majority of Y6 pupils have returned at some point and it has been so lovely to see them again. They look like 'human art' wearing their colourful leavers' hoodies. A regular rainbow!

It has also been wonderful to welcome back children from other year groups. I'm pleased 100% of our 'returners' have realised that school isn't scary, in fact it is similar with a few dollops of hand gel!

Well done to all the children who have become experts at knowing which doors and toilets to use. They have guided our 'returners' through it, showing a great deal of empathy and understanding for them!



The circles together!

## Plans for September 2020.

The new academic year starts on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020. The finer organisational details will be shared with you as soon as we have them. The teachers and I are meeting to discuss and plan on the TD Day on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July. Mrs Watkins and I will be in touch with you as soon as we can!

Broadly:

1. All pupils are expected to attend school.
2. Classes will be back to their full size and format.
3. There will be a staggered start to the day – probably three arrival times (with siblings arriving at the same time) and everyone in school by 09:00.
4. Adults dropping off children in the morning will not be allowed beyond the school gate, but we hope older children can walk from the car by themselves. (As now)
5. Classes will enter / leave the school building by different doors.

6. Breaks and lunchtimes will be staggered.
7. Hot meals will be available in September.
8. There will be a staggered pick-up at the end of the day (with everyone leaving at or just after 15:00)
9. Early Birds and Night Owls will take place. (Probably in the school hall to allow for social distancing)
10. After school clubs will not take place.
11. Everyone will be expected to follow good respiratory hygiene. (We have new bins with lids to allow for **catch it, bin it, kill it!**) Please teach your children over the summer holiday to catch coughs and sneezes in a tissue, bin it and then wash their hands.

**We will continue to adapt how we work in school by reducing interactions, particularly between adults and by curbing high-risk activities. This means the staffroom will continue to be closed, so that staff do not congregate and can socially distance, visitors to school will be kept to a minimum, whole-school assemblies will not take place and indoor singing will unfortunately not happen until the risks diminish.**

If you have any queries regarding these broad plans for September, please do not hesitate to contact either Mrs Watkins or myself. This can be done through the school office or if you prefer via Mrs Richards using the address: [support.teacher@stratford-sub-castle.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:support.teacher@stratford-sub-castle.wilts.sch.uk)

If you are interested in using either **Early Birds or Night Owls** please complete a booking form and return it to school **by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July**. This can be done electronically or using a paper copy (Use the drop-box). Please see attached form for your convenience.

## **Your plans for the summer break 2020.**

One of our parents contacted us to share this with you...

'This holiday club isn't on the list from Wiltshire council that was circulated yesterday, it might be of some use to some of the Stratford parents if there is anyone else asking. It's a sports and games camp at Sarum Academy. <https://www.premier-education.com/parents/venue/courses/23719/?location=sp1%203lw>

## **This week...**

86% of our number on roll have attended school at some point during the week. 130 children attended school. 26 pupils attended fulltime and 104 pupils attended for part of the week.

## **News from the Bubbles!**

This week **Butterfly Bubble** have enjoyed a 'space' theme. They created their own solar system pictures using a mixed media. Using felt tips on coffee filter paper they sprayed water and then created a planet and chalk on black paper to represent space. The children wrote space stories and made edible planets by decorating a rich tea biscuit with coloured icing sugar.



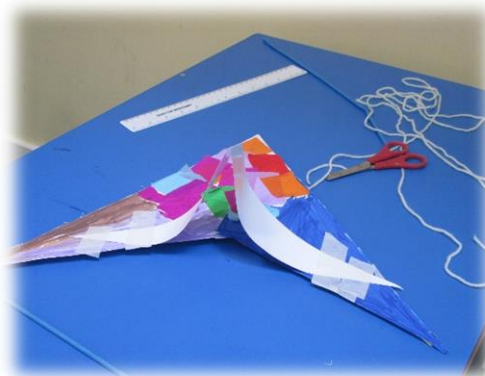
**Owl Bubble** went on safari last week and this week they have been at the funfair. They do get around a bit! They designed different games to play based on skeeball, hoopla, hook-a-duck and splat! Miniature versions of different fairground rides - roller coasters, carousels, helter-skelters and bumper cars were also designed and made!



Members of **Woodpecker Bubble** have been learning about castles. They labelled the features of castles, wrote fact files about castles and designed their own coat of arms, using pictures that represent themselves and their families. Some beautiful artwork was created by painting a watercolour background, then drawing a castle and layering it on top. The bubble learnt new words such as *portcullis*, *barbican* and *bailey*.



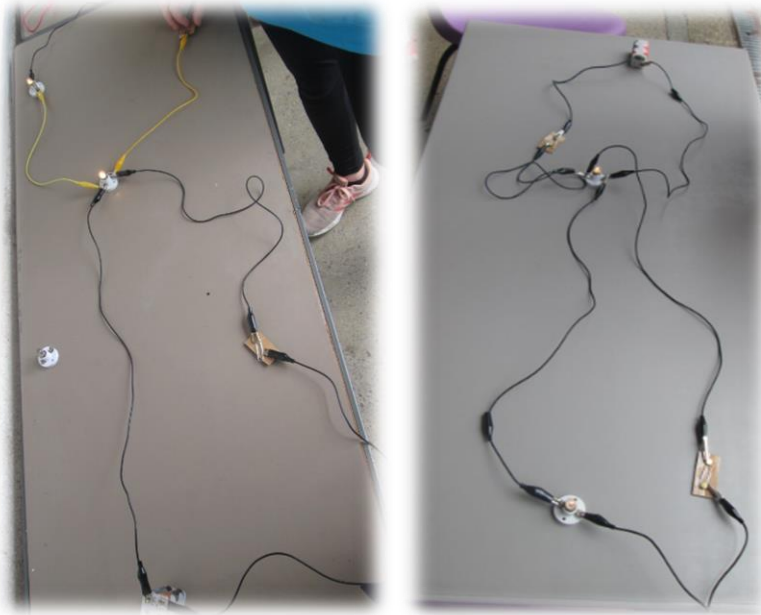
**Robin Bubble** spent time thinking about birds of prey and flight this week. Part of the week was spent making kites and of course flying them!





**Fox Bubble / Hall Bubble** have continued learning about the USA this week. Using their imagination, they travelled to New York City! In Science, the bubbles investigated electricity. The challenge set was:

*You have three skyscrapers. Create a circuit so you can light up one, then two then three skyscrapers without changing the circuit.*



Learning about Native American history continued again this week. The children designed their own totem pole. Animals, fish and birds inspired the designs.



## A message from Revd Sarah Wood-Roe

Dear Friends,

With the end of term drawing near, I have been thinking of all of you, but particularly those in Year 6 who are due to leave Stratford this summer. I am really aware of the fact that you have not been able to have many of the 'leavers' treats, events and trips that would be normal in any other year.

Leaving Primary School for secondary school is a really big moment. I remember the day that I left my village primary school. Like most other children, I was ready, but it still felt like a very big step indeed. During the leavers service in the local church, we all sang that classic 'leavers hymn' *One more step along the world I go*. Like generations of schoolchildren, we must have sung this hymn hundreds of times in assembly before that day:

**One more step along the world I go,  
One more step along the world I go;  
From the old things to the new,  
Keep me travelling along with you:  
*And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
Keep me travelling along with you.***

Singing these words at the Leavers Service when we were on the brink of moving to a bigger secondary school, suddenly felt very comforting. For they were words that spoke of the Christian belief and reassurance that God travels with us, as we travel with God, wherever the next 'step' in life take us. Yes, even 'travelling with' you if you get your science experiment so wrong in Year 7, that the entire science block has to be evacuated – we laugh about it now...

To those of you in Year 6 and indeed any other children who are shortly to leave Stratford and take that 'next step' in life, I hope that the words of this well-loved hymn will provide you all with some hope, comfort and confidence as you go from the 'old things to the new.' For, as difficult as this time has been, as hard as it has been to not be able to mark these 'next steps' in the way we usually do, what never changes is exactly what this hymn proclaims. That wherever we go in life, God travels with us and we with him – helping us to work out the way forward and giving us the strength and courage to do so. And for all of us at the moment – whether we are taking a 'next step' or not - maybe some more words from this hymn can help and reassure us in these extraordinary times:

**Give me courage when the world is rough,  
Keep me loving though the world is tough;  
Leap and sing in all I do,  
Keep me travelling along with you:**

*With every blessing,*

*Revd Sarah*



## **Finally...**

Again, it has been lovely / spine tingling to see more of our pupils returning this week. We have missed you!

I look forward to seeing even more 'returners' next week. The children have supported each other with empathy and understanding, which is pleasing to see!

Thank you to Mrs Richards for organising our community art project, it looks GREAT!

Do have a good weekend.

Peace, love and joy to all.

Mrs Kay Bridson