



West Ashtead Primary School

Newsletter Number 17 1st May 2020

I do hope everyone is continuing to be safe and happy. We continue to keep our heads down and battle on. I am nurturing strawberries, raspberries, potatoes, French beans, Swiss chard and tomatoes at home. My bread making skills are improving, I am slowly clearing the chest freezer. I am now down to food labelled 2016! I am borrowing books from the school library and have recently enjoyed The Light Jar and Goldfish Boy.

Home Learning

Thank you for all the support when grappling with this area. We all recognise that we are learning together and your positive feedback has been most uplifting. I am very proud of everything our teaching staff are providing. They are juggling Google classroom, working in school, writing reports, planning for September alongside supporting their own families and friends. They have all remained resolutely positive and upbeat for which I am very grateful. I could not ask for a better team.

Every day I have a wander around the 'classrooms' and it is lovely to see the engagement and creativity of the children. They are certainly learning to be independent and resilient. Please do not worry if sometimes deadlines slip or work cannot be covered. We make no judgement as we understand that events are out of our control. If you are doing other work alongside or instead of the set work, you can still upload to Google classroom. You may prefer to send an email to staff. This prevents us from worrying about whether your child is accessing work, needs different work or whether some other support is needed. Please remember that children do not need to be in front of screens all the time or doing endless worksheets – being out and about, playing, communicating and interacting and just 'being' are crucially important as well.

I am working my way through phone calls and visits to as many families as I can to ensure everyone is alright and I have really enjoyed this contact and finding out the many different ways you are all managing.

School Environment

Mr Heimsath has been very busy around the school. We have redesigned the outdoor lunch area, removed old wooden structures, dug the vegetable beds and put up permanent picture frames ready for some official photographs as well as resourcing The Snug (an area designed for small group or 1-1 work). We are hopeful that our perimeter fencing around the noisy playground will be replaced soon. This means that when we eventually return, the school will be looking very smart for the children to enjoy.

Mrs Andrews

We have welcomed Mrs Andrews to West Ashtead, who is working in 5D for the Summer term. She is very familiar with Google Classroom and is enjoying finding out about our children virtually. She has prepared her 'real' classroom and we hope that the children get to see her hard work!

Miss Clemson

Next Thursday we say a virtual goodbye to Miss Clemson who will start her maternity leave. She has worked so hard over these last few weeks to ensure that everything is in place not only for the Summer term but also for the transition to Year 3. I am very grateful for her dedication to our children. Her Summer maternity leave will be covered by Ms Karen McCrossan who has been a member of staff at West Ashtead for many years. Ms McCrossan has completed her teacher training with us this year and I am delighted that she is staying with us.

With all best wishes and fingers crossed that we are definitely over the peak!
Ruth Hall - Head Teacher