



<http://www.newdigate.surrey.sch.uk>

23rd April 2020

Newsletter 9

Dear Parents,

Spring has most certainly well and truly sprung! We hope you and your children have been able to notice and enjoy the seasonal changes going on in the world around us; it is very reassuring and comforting to notice that these predictable changes continue to happen, and indeed the

Mrs Cleather has also found a beautiful book that is very infant friendly and helps to explain emotions during this lockdown but also has an activity that allows children to think about what they miss and what they are most looking forward to when they return to school. The link to 'Lucy in Lockdown' is here (it is free!):

<https://www.lucysblueday.com/product-page/lucy-s-in-lockdown> and I have also sent the book as a PDF with this newsletter. On the subject of rainbows, I have included a copy of an assembly called 'Our School Together Apart – reflections (rainbows)' that the Guildford Diocese have sent us. It is aimed at helping parents discuss, understand and manage the difficult issues we are experiencing at the moment with their children. Please don't think it is a requirement, just a suggestion.

<p>Our value last half-term is thanks. <i>Chronicles 29:13 Now, our God, we give you thanks and praise your glorious name</i></p>  <p>We are thankful for what we have and will look after our world.</p>	<p>Our value this half-term is Forgiveness <i>Psalm 130:4 But with you there is forgiveness</i></p>  <p>We always try to forgive each other.</p>
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world is benefiting in so many ways from our 'new normal'. Wednesday 22nd April was **Earth Day 2020**, a time to stop and think about our impact on our world and we are now perfectly placed to be able to do that!

The grounds look truly amazing and the sensory garden is blooming and taking on a new life. The orchard has blossomed and hopefully will provide us with fruit later this year again. The willow has also started to grow and provide cover and we will make sure we make this into our outdoor reflection space for when we return. We also have many beautiful bluebells in and around our school grounds. The birdsong is also providing a peaceful accompaniment to our school day as always! I've given you a flavour in these photos to share with your children.

We have now set up class e-mails for you to send completed children's work to their teachers who can then take a look and reply on Marvellous Me! We hope this will give them added incentive to engage in learning at home. The addresses are:

- Hedgehogs:** hedgehogs@newdigate.surrey.sch.uk
- Foxes:** foxes@newdigate.surrey.sch.uk
- Owls:** owls@newdigate.surrey.sch.uk

Stay well and safe.

Paula Bliss





Our school: together and apart

Reflections for 'school' at home: Rainbows

A note for parents and carers:

At school, your child will be used to taking part in collective worship every day (they might call it 'assembly'). This is not the kind of worship that some of you might be have been part of in a religious building. In church schools this collective worship is planned to be:

- **Inclusive:** something for children and teachers, of all faiths or of none to be able to join in with
- **Inspirational:** a time in the day to think about the big questions in our lives; an occasion that supports the school community's spiritual development, creates an opportunity to gather around and reflect on a common theme and 'feeds' their inner being;
- **Invitational:** in school, children and teachers are invited to pray, think, or reflect, it is the child's or teacher's choice how they respond.

At this time, many children will be missing the familiar routines of school. One way in which we can help to keep that sense of normality is by offering these resources to schools to share with their school community at home. Please be clear: these ideas are for you to use, adapt, or not use at all. You choose!

We plan to produce these resources for the weeks that schools are 'at home' and would love to know if there's anything that your school community at home would appreciate. You can find our contact details on the [Diocesan website](#).

Jane Whittington & Rachel Boxer

Theme: Rainbows

- Look at the picture of the rainbow together. You can find it on the next page or using the link [here](#).
- When do we see a rainbow?
- Share memories of rainbows that you might have seen with other people in your home.

Things to talk about together:

- For many people, a rainbow is a sign of hope – that sunshine will return after the rain.
- Sometimes a rainbow is a picture of the fact that it's possible to find good things even in difficult situations. One hymn writer wrote 'I trace the rainbow through the rain': what do you think these words might mean?
- For people who are Christians, a rainbow is a reminder of God's promises. Do you know any stories from the Bible where God makes a promise?
- All over the world, people have been putting rainbows in their windows to remind each other that we are not alone. It started in Italy, where the virus

has kept people in their homes, away from each other for a long time. (There is a photo taken in Guildford on the next page) Why do you think a rainbow is a good symbol to use?

Things to do together:

- Paint, draw or colour a rainbow to put in your window: many school children are putting rainbows in their windows for others to spot. You might like to use the reflection / prayer activity below as you colour.
- If you go out for a walk together (at a safe distance from other people, of course!), see how many rainbows you can spot in the windows of homes. Wave at the people who live in that home if you can see them or pray for them as you pass by.
- Make a rainbow using a CD and a torch (or a ray of sunshine) It's best to try this in the dark. If you turn the CD over to the side that's got no printing on, you can angle a torch beam to bounce a rainbow around the room. You can watch a clip of how to do it [here](#).

Things to reflect on or pray about together:

Use the colours of the rainbow to help you think about or pray for people:

Red is the colour of bravery: pray for or think about those people who are having to be brave at the moment

Orange is the colour of waiting: pray or think about having to be patient and wait for things to get back to normal

Yellow is the colour of sunshine: be thankful for some good things in your life

Green is the colour of growth: pray or think about the people who are growing and producing our food

Blue is a peaceful colour: pray for or think about people who are anxious at this time, that they would find peace

Indigo is a sad colour: pray for or think about those who are sad or lonely

Violet is a royal colour, the colour of leaders: pray for or think about the people in our government, that they will make wise decisions

Love & Peace

Trust & Thankfulness

Forgiveness & Hope



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