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23rd February 2021

Newsletter 7

Dear Parents,

It gives me great pleasure to start this newsletter with a confirmed return date of **8th March 2021** for all children.

Our value this half-term is Thanks.

Chronicles 29:13 Now, our God, we give you thanks and praise your glorious name.



We are thankful for what we have and will look after our world.

Once again, we will be complete and together again! I have nothing but admiration for the parents who have been managing remote learning. It is timely that our new value is thanks! Thank you for all you have done and for working with us over the last few weeks, we cannot wait to have you back with us!

In preparation for their return we would like to

help the children by thinking about the areas detailed below. Class teachers will be organising zoom sessions next week to talk to the children about how excited we are to welcome them back and explaining what they can do to get themselves ready:

Sleep/Routines: Go to bed when you are asked to!

We know it is more than likely that things are somewhat out of routine for many families, especially after the half-term holiday, so it is worth starting to get them used to normal bed-times and getting up times as much as possible;

School Uniform: Get yourself used to getting ready super-quick in the morning and wearing your school uniform.

As part of getting up in good time, it will also be worth getting back into the routine of not just being up, but being dressed in school uniform and ready to leave on time.

Anxieties: Don't worry if you feel a little wobbly!

Although we expect that most of the children are already very keen to return to school, we also know that it may create some anxiety for children after such a long time out of the routine of school. If you have any specific concerns about your child/children, please contact the class teacher as soon as possible to raise those concerns as we will do

our very best to provide the right support for every child.

You may also find the following resource pack helpful: https://childrenshealthsurrey.nhs.uk/application/files/5315/9411/6866/CAMHS_Back_to_school_Resource_pack_for_Parents.pdf

Thank you also to those who have found the time to fill in our questionnaire. In general, the responses were very positive and there were lots of kind comments. We have taken on board your feedback and will do all we can to make the next few weeks as positive as possible for you and your children given our school limitations. Now that we have a return date, we would suggest that we also use the next 2 weeks to prepare your children for their return and want to share our plans with you through group zooms. Myself and Mrs Priestley will be inviting you to join us next Monday 1st March at 2.30 p.m. to talk through our plans. More information will follow via Parentmail.

Covid-19 related issues

Our protective measures will remain as important as ever and we plan to run our return on 8th March as we did back in September. Timings re the start and end of the day dropping off will not change. Thankfully the improving weather will make it easier for us to be outside and keep windows and doors open. As always, you will need to send your children to school prepared for this, and the changing British weather!

Staff will continue to engage in twice weekly voluntary testing through rapid lateral flow tests.



Please note!

Wednesday 10th March 2021

We are postponing this magical day so that all of our children (and staff) can join in, dressed as a book character of their choice. We want to make this a special day, a reminder about the unbelievable power of books, and how they can transport us to other places and spaces and help us stretch our imagination, hearts and minds!

Never judge a book by its cover!

Miss Jones has had a brilliant idea! Every book is a precious item to be treasured, and she thought children would enjoy having a new book to read at home that had already been pre-loved by one of their class-mates. We thought that donating a book that can be enjoyed by somebody else would also be a great way of 'giving' and thinking of others. Please can we ask you to take the time to talk to your child about books they have loved and would be willing to swap. We are asking them to then choose 1 book (age appropriate) and wrap it up in wrapping paper, so the cover isn't visible and they will have to choose randomly. This should then be brought into school on their return on 8th March. This book will then be quarantined and swapped in classes on our Book Day and taken home to enjoy. We would be happy to help any family that would find this difficult, just let us know. We will also be sending home a World Book Day book token as usual and doing all of the wonderful activities that we usually do. We can't wait. (I am avoiding the Mrs Trunchbull costume as I think the children have been frightened enough!)

March 16th is Young Carers Action Day

This day has been re-named as **action** rather than just awareness day, but we will be making sure all of our school spend the day thinking about the lives of young carers, the things they need to do and the extra skills they develop supporting their family member(s). As a school we pledge to make our contribution. Mrs Priestley is our ambassador for young carers and has worked to identify, refer and support a number of young carers whilst in our school who have then gone on to other schools where the good work and support has continued. We want to break down any stigma associated with young carers and get them the recognition and support they deserve and need. The influence of the pandemic has hit us all hard, but we cannot begin to imagine how hard it must have been for those with extra caring responsibilities who haven't been able to get to school. More information can be found here:

<https://www.actionforcarers.org.uk/who-we-help/young-carers-under-18/young-carers-action-day-what-young-carers-can-do/>



The season of Lent is now upon us. We are now in the habit of doing Lent generously through the **40 Acts resources** that we feel are a very positive and accessible approach for our infant children. I have included the link below for the website that includes a family planner and some ideas of acts linked to the themes of:



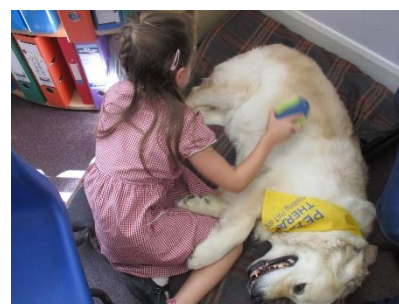
- ✓ Give out
- ✓ Spiritual
- ✓ Write/Draw
- ✓ Think
- ✓ Care
- ✓ Speak
- ✓ Act/Do
- ✓ Make

<https://40acts.org.uk/resources/>

They may need to be adapted to be Covid-friendly! It would be great if you could look at these with your children and choose some (not all!) of the 40 ideas that would be most relevant to their age and stage.

Some ideas from the chart are:

- Pick up ten pieces of litter today.*
- Say hi to someone outside your usual circle today (not as easy as it used to be!)*
- Send someone a message to let them know you are thinking about them.*
- Tidy up your bedroom, change the sheets and then do someone else's.*
- Start a giving jar and collect up loose change or donate some of your pocket money.*
- Make a generosity kit and give it away. Add some pens/ pencils, a £1 coin, tissues, sweets - what else?*
- What are you really good at? Could you use your talent to help or teach someone else?*



Lucy Moon

It is with great sadness we bring you the news that Lucy (who was our school PAT dog and member of the Moon family) is sadly no longer with us. Lucy was a well loved and valued member of our school community and brought joy and positivity to the lives of many children and adults. We all have many fond memories of the work she did here; I have seen countless children soften and relax in her presence, finding peace and comfort from

reading to her, stroking her or grooming her. She will be missed. We are so grateful that we had the pleasure of her company for so long and will forever be grateful to Mrs Moon for making that happen. We will be making a small 'Lucy' remembrance garden space for children to visit and think about her, or any other pet or loved one that they have lost.

FRIDAY 19TH MARCH 2021



Finally, we are putting our full support behind one of the most inspiring individuals we have ever known (who just happens to be an ex-Newdigate Pupil) and raising awareness of the challenge he has accepted for Red Nose Day.

BILLY'S BIG RED NOSE DAY CHALLENGE

A CHALLENGE LIKE NO OTHER

This February, professional racing driver and double-leg amputee, Billy Monger, is attempting to undertake a gruelling triathlon inspired challenge, in support of Red Nose Day. Over the course of four days, Billy will be battling the elements as well as physical and mental exhaustion, as he sets out to walk, kayak and cycle a staggering 140 miles. Along the way, he'll be supported by family, friends and some very special guests to help spur him on to the finish line.

Make sure you don't miss a single moment. Follow Billy on Instagram at [@billymongerracing](#) (opens in new window) and Twitter at [@BillyMonger](#) (opens in new window) to get all of the latest updates.

An hour-long documentary will follow the highs and lows of Billy's journey on BBC One this March.

More details can be found here as well as a link to his Just Giving page. We are asking children to come to school with a painted red nose or an item of red clothing. We will not be taking donations at the school, but will be asking all donations to be made through this just giving page.

In honour of Billy's courage, we will be working with Premier Sports to provide our pupils with their own personal challenges, 3 new physical things they have never done before!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vG9X1uXpqsM>

<https://www.comicrelief.com/rednoseday/challenges/billy/>

Stay well and safe.

Paula Bliss

Love & Peace

Trust & Thankfulness

Forgiveness & Hope

Love & Peace

Trust & Thankfulness

Forgiveness & Hope