



Dear Parents,

Rather than try to do a usual Wednesday newsletter when there is, all of a sudden, very little news, I thought I would just send on a few thoughts and answer some of the questions people have been asking.

### Home Learning

I am sure that some of you have taken to home learning like ducks to water whilst others are finding a bit of a struggle.

If you are in the former category, then carry right on and you don't need to read the following advice.

- a) In these unusual times, do not let the work we set become a matter of stress and upset in the family. We are putting a lot of work up on the web-site but it does not ALL need to be done and it does not all need to be done in exactly the way we suggest. It is there to help you to see what kinds of things your child could be doing.
- b) Your child does not need you to sit with them every moment that they are working. In fact, even small children should have times when they are expected to get on without an adult. It is good for them.
- c) Don't be afraid to let your children be bored. When people are bored, that is when they are at their most inventive.
- d) Involve children in household chores. They can learn a lot from chores.
  - a. For example, **Hoovering**. Let them do the hoovering, let them play with the hoover, let them put their hands over the hoover end and feel how it works. Hoover dad's hair (or maybe that is a lost cause already!) Ask them to tell you / draw / explain in writing exactly how a hoover cleans floors. Look up the word vacuum and get them to spell it, define it, use it in a sentence (or 5). Take before and after pictures to use in any written explanation.

These are things that parents would never normally have time for but, if a global pandemic can have an up-side at all, seeing your children experiment and learn, could be one of them. You never know, maybe next week, we can tackle washing up ☺

- e) If you have a child with special educational needs, remember, you can always access work from the year/s below if they are finding it hard to cope.
- f) Remember, stressful though this time is, your children will probably remember it as a happy time because they are spending a lot of time with you. Most of us old enough to remember the miners' strikes will remember the power cuts as happy, family times. Your children will remember these times because they are different to the norm. How they remember them will be swayed by you and your attitudes.

- g) If this situation carries on for some time after the Easter holidays, we will find a way to put pictures of what children have been doing up on the year group web pages. These web pages will not be password protected so, if you don't want your child's photo up there, please don't send it in. We are also aware that, in the future, these times will be part of history studies. Maybe our web pages will be studied a century from now. How exciting!

## **Kingswood**

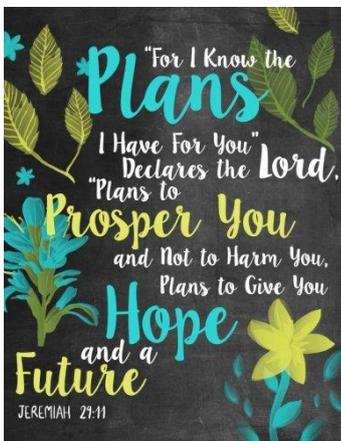
I know that many Year Six children have questions about Kingswood as, rather inconveniently, final payments are due. Please be assured that Mrs Hergenhan and Miss McGunnigle are looking into it and, as soon as they have any information, we will pass it on to you. In the meantime, I would suggest that parents refrain from paying final balances until further notice. I think that, given the current situation, companies are unlikely to be holding to draconian deadlines. Companies are as much in the dark as we are.

Our thinking at the moment is that, should schools re-open in May or June, it may be possible for the trip to go ahead. If not, it is unlikely that we would be able to re-schedule it. We will keep you informed as best we can.

## **Opening for children of Key Workers**

The school will be open for children of key workers over the Easter holiday period excluding Good Friday and Easter Monday. The same routines will apply as have been in place this week but, as yet, I don't know whether or not a lunch can be provided.)

## **Take time to pray or meditate or be mindful**



These times can be difficult and worrying. If you are going to be able to look after your child's emotional well-being, you must look after your own.

- Do not watch or listen to rolling news stories about coronavirus. This can be oppressive and make everything seem worse.
- Make time to pray, if you do so. You are not responsible for everything that happens in the world. Hand it over to God. If you are cross, puzzled, sad or angry, then hand that over too. Shout at him if you must. God is big enough to cope. Hand it over and then get on with the day.
- If you do not pray, take time to meditate on positive things. There is still much beauty in the world, even with the coronavirus.
- Feel empowered rather than helpless:
  - Help others
  - Solve problems
  - Have something you want to achieve each day.
- Most of all, finish each day as we do in school. Consciously think about the three best things/moments of the day and take a few minutes to be thankful.

Best wishes, Jan Matthews and SLT