



Charing CE Primary School

Weekly Newsletter Friday 27th March 2020



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An important update with regard to school closure

The school was open this week on Wednesday and Thursday and briefly on Monday morning. I want to personally thank all the staff, **Mrs Golden, Mrs Halliday, Mrs Hammond, Mrs Young and Mrs Nunn** for going above and beyond to ensure we were able to provide a service for those children who needed care and to ensure those children who needed food were able to receive it. I also want to thank **Mrs Hawkins** for her hard work behind the scenes phoning all the families to ensure you are all ok. Do tell her if you are struggling in anyway and we will try to support you.

From next week and during the Easter holidays the school will be closed all of the time. As far as we are aware all the children have a provision of care for next week but if you are a key worker and find that you do need child care next week or during the first week of the Easter Holidays, Kingsnorth Primary School have very kindly offered to accommodate any of our children who need care. Parents of children who require this help must either contact the school office or myself in advance, (headteacher@charing.kent.sch.uk) (office@charing.kent.sch.uk). We can then arrange the provision with Kingsnorth. I am grateful to Mr Witts, the Executive Headteacher, of Kingsnorth for his support in these difficult times.

Mrs Matthews and I will reevaluate the situation in line with government guidelines during the second week of the Easter holiday to see if there is a demand that requires the school to reopen on the 20th April. You will be informed via 'Parent mail' on Friday 17th April of the school's position.



Prayer

Dear Father fill our hearts with thy Holy Spirit.

Take away our fear, keep us safe and fill us with love and hope.

Thank you for all the people who are doing so much to help us.

Please open our eyes this Springtime to the rebirth of the new leaves and flowers.

Open our ears to the song of the bird.

Open our minds so that we can use this situation to learn lessons from which we can build a better world for everyone.

Please help us to control our selfishness and think always of our neighbour.

We ask this in your Holy name,

Amen



A personal message from Mr Bird

What a strange week! I hope you are all well and have been enjoying the sunshine...in your gardens! My poor dog, Lula, is so worn out: she's done at least four marathons since last Saturday! I hope parents have enjoyed their first week as teachers! How many had development days this week to give themselves a break? Thank you for all those who have emailed the staff with completed work and please carry on doing this. If you need any help just contact your child's class teacher by email.

This week my brother sent me a poem by Richard Hendrick about the current situation which I will share with you.

Lockdown

Yes there is fear.
Yes there is isolation.
Yes there is panic buying.
Yes there is sickness.
Yes there is even death.
But,
They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise
You can hear the birds again.
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet
The sky is no longer thick with fumes
But blue and grey and clear.
They say that in the streets of Assisi
People are singing to each other
across the empty squares,
keeping their windows open
so that those who are alone
may hear the sounds of family around them.
They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland
Is offering free meals and delivery to the
housebound.
Today a young woman I know
is busy spreading fliers with her number
through the neighbourhood
So that the elders may have someone to call on.
Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and
Temples
are preparing to welcome
and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary

All over the world people are slowing down and
reflecting
All over the world people are looking at their
neighbours in a new way
All over the world people are waking up to a new reality
To how big we really are.
To how little control we really have.
To what really matters.
To Love.
So we pray and we remember that
Yes there is fear.
But there does not have to be hate.
Yes there is isolation.
But there does not have to be loneliness.
Yes there is panic buying.
But there does not have to be meanness.
Yes there is sickness.
But there does not have to be disease of the soul
Yes there is even death.
But there can always be a rebirth of love.
Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.
Today, breathe.
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic
The birds are singing again
The sky is clearing,
Spring is coming,
And we are always encompassed by Love.
Open the windows of your soul
And though you may not be able
to touch across the empty square,
Sing.

Although, these are unprecedented times; what is bringing me joy is the kindness that is being shown by many in this crisis. Over half a million people signing up to support the NHS in one way or another within hours of it going live made me very proud of my country and I really hope when we do come through this pandemic, society continues to be united and caring instead of individuals putting themselves first. The unsung heroes in our society for years are now in the spotlight because of the key role they have to play and deserve all the respect and love that is being shown to them currently. Again, hopefully this admiration continues once we are through this as they do play a key role in everyday life not just at a time of crisis. Please continue to support these key workers by following the advice given and stay indoors.

Best wishes

Mr Bird





As some of you may be aware, Mr Bird is a pub quizmaster in his spare time. On Thursday night, yesterday, his quiz went live to the nation (probably just to his mum and dad) for the first time. To help you pass the time here are a handful of his questions from last night (answers will be in next week's newsletter).

Cryptic countries

Try to work out the country from these cryptic clues.

Example – People's rock would be Folkestone or wide steps would be Broadstairs

- 1) Skinny area
- 2) Freezing area
- 3) A bird found on the coast with an n in the middle
- 4) Hurry the lady up

General knowledge

- 1) Who was Henry VIII's 4th wife?
- 2) What is the capital of Qatar?
- 3) Who holds the record for the highest score in test cricket?
- 4) What is the chemical symbol for gold?

Countdown

- 1) Letters. Try to make the longest word you can out these 9 letters
B A E R T O I P L
- 2) Try to make 654 by using 1,2,4,5, 10 and 25. You can only use each number once!
- 3) Conundrum – Make the word out of these letters:
G I N G R I P S N

Remember, we will update the website during term time on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Please also look out for emails and texts though parent mail and messages on Facebook. We will keep you up dated as regularly as we can.



And finally, don't forget that the Clocks go forward an hour this weekend. Just think, you've got an hour less of isolation!