

Charing CE Primary School

Weekly Newsletter

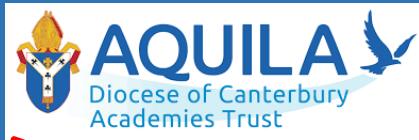
Friday 29th January 2021

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Lockdown
Edition



I'm writing this week's newsletter from my office at school. For me this is a huge treat. I'm out of the house, not sitting at my kitchen table trying to work whilst providing endless snacks, food and help for my own two children. Let alone checking they're actually doing work and not having another 'Minecraft break'!!

As a teacher and as a parent, I have to admit that I've found last week and this week really hard. This lockdown feels different. Not just because of the awful weather but the uncertainty of when we might get back to some normality. Trying to get your own children to engage with home learning is hugely difficult and I write that also as a teacher.

So you are all doing an amazing job from home. You are keeping them safe and doing your best so well done!

If like me, you have good days and bad days, don't give yourself a hard time. If the kids don't finish every task set, if they spend a bit longer playing on the Xbox than normal or you've all eaten more chocolate than is strictly necessary this week... it's ok! You are surviving. Mrs Nunn is doing a fantastic job getting in touch with everyone but if you are having a rubbish day, need help, a virtual hug or just to offload, please get in touch. We are here to help.

I am massively enjoying seeing my class every morning on Teams. Your children are a huge part of our lives from Monday to Friday in normal circumstances and we miss them all. Being able to still connect, even if it is on a screen, catch up, hear their funny stories and just check in with home learning, has been a life line for us as teachers. And I do love the pets, siblings and adults who unexpectedly join the lessons too!

We are in the process of arranging some extra sessions to help fill some gaps in learning and to help build confidence for some children. This is something we would be doing in school so we're trying to timetable some extra slots from next week. The teachers will be in touch with those parents whose children are to be involved in these groups. At the moment this will be for some children, not all.

Remember, all we ask is you do your best and keep yourselves and your families safe.

Take care
Mrs Golden



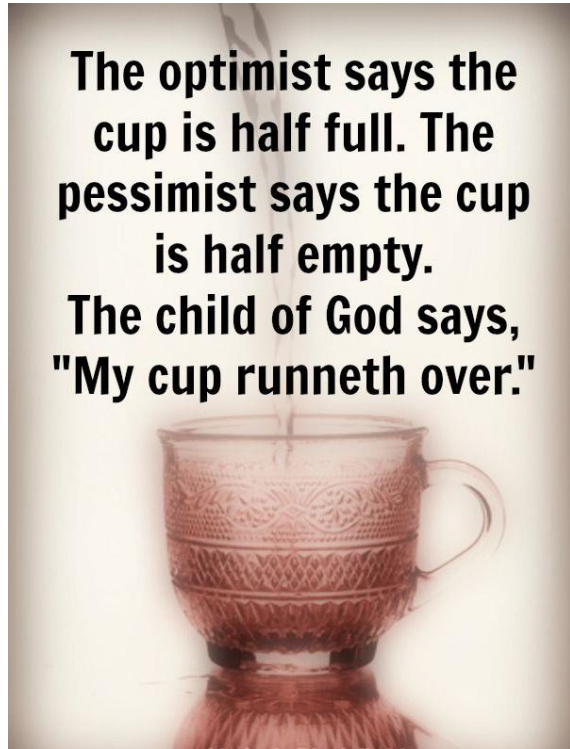
Living and Learning with Faith, Friendship and Fun

Many Christians believe that Jesus' words 'living water' refers to the unending and life-giving love of God that overflows onto Christians. Imagine a glass. Every time someone shows love, a little bit of water is added to the glass. It quickly overflows and spreads to others around. This is what Christians believe God's love is like.



I wonder who has shown small acts of love in your life this week – actions which show that they know us, welcome us and love us?

I wonder what small actions you could do to help fill someone's glass this week?



Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for knowing us, welcoming us and loving us. We think of those who feel unloved or left out. Please show us if any of our family, friends or school community are feeling this way, and help us to show them love and kindness as Jesus did at the well.

Amen.

We need your help!

Due to a technical problem with the bank details, we are so very sorry and disappointed that your generous donations from our quiz night in November have all be refunded to you. As you will realise, this is a devastating blow to our PTFA fundraising efforts. We have set up a new just giving page and are hopeful that you can resubmit your donation to our amazing PTFA. Although we are closed to the majority at the moment, the PTFA are still busy working behind the scenes with us and their support to the school is invaluable.



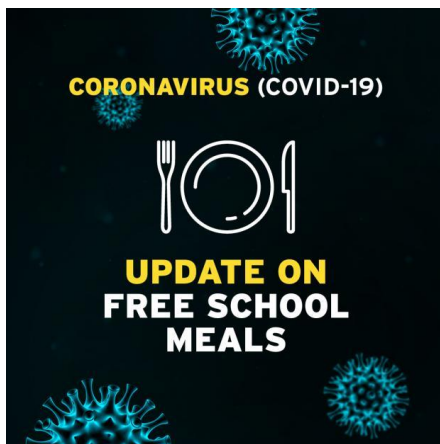
https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/charingprimary-ptfa?utm_term=QQy9qGYXX



Living and Learning with Faith, Friendship and Fun



In addition to the meal ideas posted last week, Change for life have created 3 week lunch meal planners at <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/lunch/cheap-lockdown-lunch-ideas> Don't forget, The Plough Inn are also on hand to offer advice and to help create exciting lunch ideas. info@theploughinnstalisfield.co.uk



For families eligible for free school meal vouchers, the national government scheme is now in place so you will be receiving your vouchers from Edenred. We would like to say a big thank you to our local MP Damian Green and his team for helping us with this. Registering for the scheme is a slow and frustrating process but thanks to Damian Green and his team, we were able to start providing this quickly.



Lateral Flow Testing

Charing Primary School staff are taking part in the lateral flow testing initiative.

The use of rapid lateral flow tests is already proving beneficial in finding people with coronavirus before they develop symptoms.

Staff are encouraged to test regularly to provide reassurance within our school community and to break chains of transmission during this period.

If a staff member has a positive Lateral Flow Test, they will be directed to get a covid-19 test and we will close the key worker bubble immediately and follow DFE and Public Health guidance.

HM Government

NHS Test and Trace

WHAT IS Lateral Flow Testing

- Small and portable, similar to pregnancy tests
- No lab required, meaning fast results
- Safe and trusted technology



Living and Learning with Faith, Friendship and Fun

Big Garden Birdwatch

29-31 January 2021



This weekend, why not take part in the Big Garden Birdwatch?

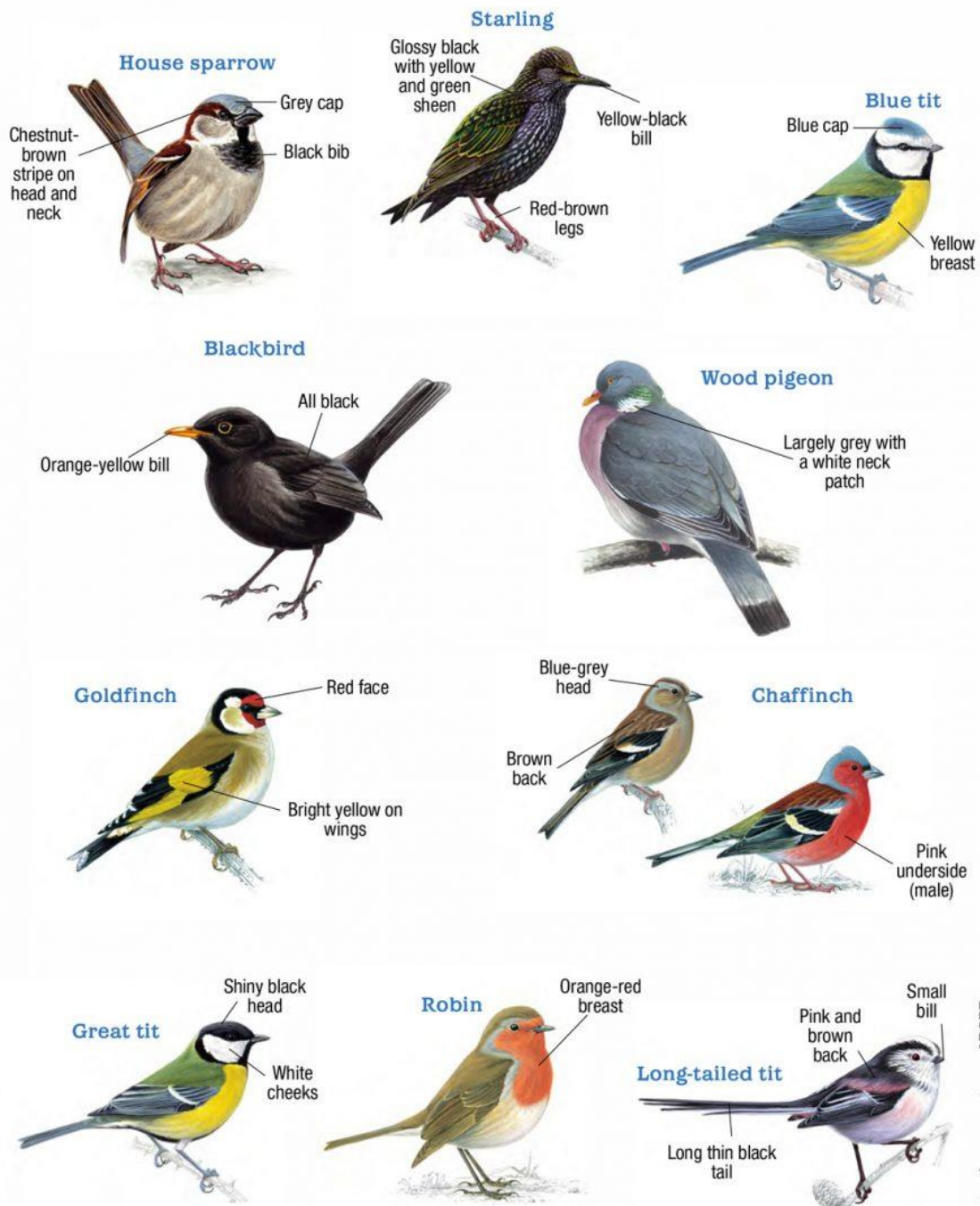
We might not be able to get together with loved ones at the moment, but you can make plans with friends and family to take part in the world's largest wildlife survey, all from the comfort of your own homes. Have you got the same birds in your garden as your Nan? Can you see the same birds from your window as your cousin?

Spend an hour counting the birds you see either in your garden, from your balcony or from your window, then tell the RSPB what you saw. It really is that simple!

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/everything-you-need-to-know-about-big-garden-birdwatch/>



Guide to the top 10 garden birds



A few reminders about Teams expectations

Children are asked not to start calls within Teams, but to wait for the teacher to start the call, then click on the join button.

Children are also reminded that the chat function is for either asking and answering questions to the teacher during a lesson or for support out of lessons. Please do not use Teams as a social chat platform.

Behaviour online should reflect the behaviour expected in the classroom



Instructions for Accessing Microsoft Teams on a Games Console



Xbox One / Series X / Series S

1. Plug a keyboard into the Xbox USB slot.
2. Go to **My Games and Apps**.
3. Find and select **Microsoft Edge**.
4. Search for *Microsoft Teams*.
5. Follow the first link and sign in with your school email address and password.

PlayStation 4

1. Identify the PlayStation **Internet Browser** icon (WWW with dots around it). If you cannot find the Internet Browser:
 - i. Press the PlayStation logo on the controller.
 - ii. Go to the **Library** and find options for games and applications.
 - iii. Go to applications and you will find the Internet Browser.
2. Search for *Microsoft Teams*.
3. Follow the first link and sign in with your school email address and password.

Note: The PlayStation 5 does not currently have a supported web browser.



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