

8 May 2020

Dear Parents,

Although this week ends with a Bank Holiday your children have been super busy! Again, their creativity is simply wonderful. There have been some stunning pieces of art work produced including natural art from Class 1, atmospheric planets for Year 5 and incredibly detailed drawings of the eye from Class 6.

Royal May Day

This is a highlight of every year in Knutsford, but particularly at Egerton where nearly two thirds of our children take part. This year was to be very special indeed as the parade will now start from our school grounds. However, despite the current situation that did not dampen the spirits of our families! Bunting was proudly displayed and many children dressed in their favourite clothes or costumes, cakes were baked and there was a great community spirit across the town.

Sarah King, Susie's mum from Year 5 has been using her talents as a photographer to help bring some joy to us all but also raise vital funds for 'Cheshire Community Foundation'. Her photographs capture the highs and the lows of this time and feature all ages, pets, activities and many Egerton families. Her website link is below and there is also a special exhibition dedicated to May Day!

www.sarahjanekingphotography.com

Children's Learning

This week the Teaching Assistants and I were able to get out and make deliveries to families providing extra exercise books and a small bag of goodies. Apologies to the Junior children as I had planned for you to have some lovely water colour pencils and for all children to have a spiral bound journal to keep special memories of this time – please still do this if you can! The educational suppliers finally said they were not able to deliver these things after weeks of badgering!

We all really enjoyed seeing the children and their parents. It gave us such a boost as well as the children! Some days have been really tough. You have all done a wonderful job at keeping your children safe, loved, educated and nourished at such uncertain times nationally and globally. We have all experienced a range of emotions including frustration at reports of those not following the rules but all odd feelings of lack of energy and low moments. This is because we are not living, what would be our normal lives. It's at times like this that the story of Piglet and Pooh is so useful. It is okay to not have very okay days and to focus on what makes you happy.

The learning activities the teachers are providing are there for you to choose from with your children. They are designed to not need printing at all, although I know some of you prefer to do this but we fully appreciate that this may not be an option for many families. The Bug Club is very popular and will support your children in continuing to develop their reading skills, which is the key stone to all other areas.

You are all amazing and have achieved 6 weeks of being at home being unable to take your children to visit family, take days out or even go on holiday. Please feel proud of what you have achieved. We are deeply grateful for all you are doing and please remember our three key messages:

- Do what you can and when. Do not worry if all activities have not been completed and make time for play and relaxation.
- Only Mrs Hooper and the class teacher can see the work that is posted.
- Don't worry if work is not posted on a particular day – just do whatever is possible. This helps the teachers support every child.

Hidden Talents!

If you have any hidden talents you would like to share please let your children's teachers know via tapestry, seesaw or the school admin email. Can you play an instrument, dance, make something, tell jokes..... The children would be inspired to see you and it would bring so much joy to our school community.

Critical Key Workers

As the days and weeks go by, we need to work together in supporting the children. The advice is very clear that everyone must remain at home if possible, especially children. If, at any point, key workers would need their children educated in school, as they have to return to work please get in touch via: admin@egerton.cheshire.sch.uk

Friday 8 May – Bank Holiday - Learning activities will not be set for the children on this day. It has been earmarked as an opportunity for us all to celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE Day. It would be great for the children to learn about this. Captain Tom Moore has certainly been an inspiration to us all! The Town Council has set a competition to dress up as a wartime relative.

Changes for the future

This weekend we have been told to expect the Government to reveal their plans regarding a possible relaxation of the current lock down rules. There has been no government plan or guidance as to how this will affect schools shared with Headteachers, despite continuing speculation in the press and on social media. I am meeting weekly and sometimes more frequently with Mike Cladingbowl and my fellow Headteachers in KMAT. As soon as we receive any official notification or guidance which will affect a change for schools I will be writing to you. There are significant tests that must be achieved before schools can reopen.

If ever you are worried, have a question, are struggling with technology or devices or have any feedback please do not hesitate to get in touch via admin@egerton.cheshire.sch.uk

We are here to help.
Enjoy your weekend!
Alison Hooper