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March 27th 2020 Newsletter

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Checkendon CE Primary School

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**Thank you** for all you are doing to **support your children's learning** at home; I understand the challenges of juggling support for younger and older members of extended families – often whilst, at the same time, working from home yourselves. In these trying times, **the sunshine has been a welcome tonic** for us all. On a personal note, I have really enjoyed walking home from school daily this week; taking time to appreciate the natural world and the signs of new life of spring has helped me to see life as it is but **focus on the good bits!**

By the time this newsletter drops into your inbox, you will have received an emailed **class letter**. In common with schools across the country we have been grappling with developing arrangements for children to learn at home during this extended period of school closure. I hope you found the **class handouts** that we sent home with the children last Friday clearly set out and helpful. Our aim is to be explicit about the tasks we expect all children to complete at home and provide the right support for them to be able to do this. As you can imagine, we are reassessing this all the time (including at our weekly staff meetings – now taking place virtually via Skype!) as we refine and improve what we can offer the pupils at our school. Class letters are one way we aim to **add to the range learning opportunities** and provide a teacher/class link; we are looking at ways we can develop this further next term.

Please do **email your child's class teacher Monday – Friday** with queries or news about your child's learning; **use the office email with the name of the class as the subject line**. Your child's teacher will aim to respond personally, usually the following working day.

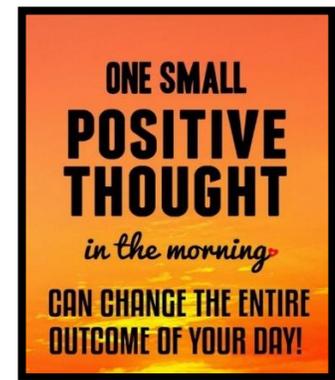
Be kind to yourselves and each other; look for silver linings and enjoy a bit of fun and laughter whenever you can!

Warm regards, Gillian Seymour

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## Thought for the Day



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## Picture of the Week

Ellie R undertaking some science learning about static electricity on the trampoline!



## More Information

### Free Resource

At a time when many children are feeling worried and anxious the link below contains a free book explaining Covid-19 and social distancing in a child friendly manner which may prove useful at a time when many children are feeling worried and anxious.

<https://www.flipsnack.com/CSKidsBooks/what-s-going-on.html>

### Message from Emma Davies

#### Keep on Singing!

Singing causes the body to feel good and increases the brains activity. It can also help to develop a child's imagination and creativity. You can access free songs and resources with Out of the Ark Music via the link below. There is a different song with activities for each day of the week and new songs will be released for the next few weeks.

[https://www.outoftheark.co.uk/ootam-at-home/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=OOTAHome%20Week%201&utm\\_content=OOTAHome%20Week%201+CID\\_bf49382f0ebe74cb0b221faa64915f7e&utm\\_source=Email%20newsletter&utm\\_term=Out%20of%20the%20Ark%20%20Home](https://www.outoftheark.co.uk/ootam-at-home/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=OOTAHome%20Week%201&utm_content=OOTAHome%20Week%201+CID_bf49382f0ebe74cb0b221faa64915f7e&utm_source=Email%20newsletter&utm_term=Out%20of%20the%20Ark%20%20Home)

### Useful documents to support parents

We have uploaded two useful documents to the website:

**How To Support Home Learning** and **Your Child's Screen Time: Parent Guide.**

### Residential Visits for Year 5 and Year 6 planned for the autumn term

- Year 5 Residential (pupils in current Year 4) to Path Hill - 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> October
- Year 6 Residential (pupils in current Year 5) to Rock UK – 13<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup> October

Since the parent meetings regarding this year's residential visits have had to be cancelled, a couple of PowerPoint presentations which you may find useful have been added to the Rhino Class page on the website (under Residential Information). They provide lots of information as to what you might expect as well as the recommended kit list.

### And finally ...

Q. Why is  $2+2=5$  like your left foot?

A. It's not right.



## Easter Holidays

We do not expect children to continue with the Emergency Closure Home Learning as outlined in the class handouts during the Easter Holidays Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April . Although the school may be open for part of this period for children of key worker parents who will be contacted separately, class teachers and office staff will be on holiday and will not respond to emails during this time.

We await further information about when the school may re-open.

In the meantime, we expect children to re-start their Emergency Closure Home Learning on the first day of the Summer Term Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April.

## Communication

Please send in your questions/updates/photos etc. to the office as necessary via [office.3801@checkendon.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3801@checkendon.oxon.sch.uk) with your child's class name in the subject line. We will ensure they are passed on to the teaching staff as appropriate.