

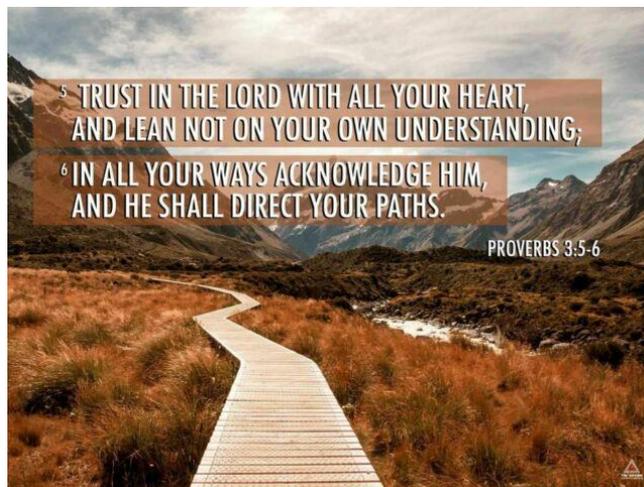


1st February 2021

NEWSLETTER 6

Dear Parent,

As we head into February our school value will be Trust. Many of our plans for worship, were we in school, would focus on trusting others - our leaders for example; following instructions, obeying the rules and making the right decisions. More broadly, never has it seemed more appropriate to hold faith and to do what we are asked. Each of us is a very small part of a very large pandemic and we do, after all, need to trust the system; there is no other way.



(Google Image)

You may wish to reflect with your children on what it means to trust someone and why it matters.

FEBRUARY HALF TERM

Please be advised that schools will be fully closed during the February half term break.

FULL SCHOOL RE-OPENING

You may be aware of the ongoing debate surrounding the issue of whether or not schools should be open or closed to all pupils. We understand that the government may be announcing, during the week beginning 22nd February, plans for reopening with a view to opening from 8th March. This is not yet fact and will depend on how the vaccination programme continues to roll out and, of course, on the Covid_19 data and the capacity of the NHS. We will keep you informed as soon as we know anything further.

50 THINGS TO DO IN LOCK DOWN

While you wait in the uncertainty of how long lock down will be why not try and fit in 50 things? You will find 'fifty daily tasks to improve well-being' attached to this letter. How many can your child do before they come back to school? Could you set them a challenge or, even, do them together? Perhaps, if you add a little positive fun to the days the lock down will be gone before you know it. 😊

REMOTE LEARNING SURVEY

Attached to this letter you will find a short survey with regard to the remote learning experiences currently provided by the school. We should be grateful if you would share your views by completing and returning the survey to the

school office at your earliest convenience. Your views will, again, help us to understand what the school is doing well and where it may improve. Thank you.

HEAD TEACHER RETIREMENT

It befalls upon me to announce that I will be retiring from the role of Head Teacher at the end of this academic year. I have enjoyed a long, active, challenging and rewarding career in Education for well over forty years and approximately half of those have been dedicated, primarily, to Wootton-by-Woodstock Primary.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work in this small village school and get to know the pupils, their extended families, the villagers, and the organisations that co-exist here. It has been satisfying to shape education and to 'grow' staff. It is humbling to think that my name forms just one small link in the long chain of Head Teachers through whose hands the school has passed over time. Throughout its history, the school has been changed and re-shaped, grown and diminished, and yet continued to provide an education in a small rural community; I have noted, from evidence in the school log books, that a remarkable number of things are common across all decades. It is time now, though, to 'pass on the baton' and leave it to a brand new chapter.

While I am not leaving quite yet (we still have next steps to put into action) I know, already, that I will miss working with children. They have been my life, my work and my inspiration.

Martin York, Chair of the school's Local Governing Body, will be writing to you very soon to outline plans for the next stage in the life of the school.

With all good wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Lucas', with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Valerie Lucas
Head Teacher