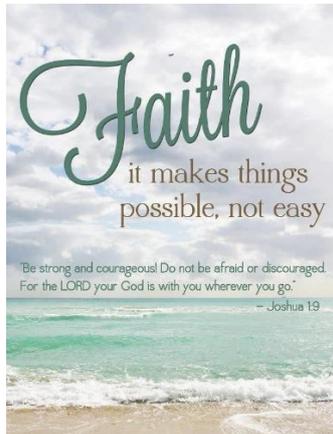


22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021

**NEWSLETTER EXTRA**

Dear Parent,

Welcome to term 4. As we head towards a whole year of lockdown and disruption we are now hoping for some light at the end of the tunnel; perhaps just a few more weeks of home schooling to go! This term, we continue to think about trust and faith, a belief that things will happen even when we cannot see the evidence, and then move on to revisiting the Easter story.



The school has missed its acts of daily collective worship with the whole community of children. The coming together of the school is a significant part of who we are and, as a staff, we have strongly felt this gap. Whilst children have been provided with a thought for the week for some time, we think that we can do a little more to help if your faith is important to you. We have uploaded some resources onto the school website which include daily reflection activities which you may wish to share with your child as well as some worship activities. These focus on the fruits of the spirit and, if used, will remind children of many things we have shared together previously. We hope that they will provide transition support for returning to school soon and the return to daily worship.

**To use the reflections**

Find a quiet place and time; this could be indoors, in the garden or in another special place. You may wish to light a candle if you are at home.

- Sit calmly and comfortably; then
- Just follow the arrows and everybody joins in the bold bits ...
- Each reflection has a 'Something to think about' section;
- Remember to read slowly and carefully, different people can read different parts;
- Do not be afraid to pause to leave time to think.

***As you prepare for the reflective activities/prayers:***

- *Choose a place where you can sit comfortably – it might be on the floor, round a table or even in the garden (if the weather is good enough). A rug or cushions might make it more comfortable if you are sitting on the floor.*

- *Agree a time to worship together. It might be first thing in the morning, before your lunchtime meal, or before bedtime begins.*
- *Decide who will lead – it doesn't have to be an adult or just one person. Think of ways in which the youngest can also help lead.*
- *Gather the things that will help create a sacred space – we suggest a cross, Bible and candle. If you do not have these as physical objects, find or draw pictures that could be used.*
- *Look through the service and gather any materials you might need – paper, pens, modelling dough, Lego etc.*
- *If you enjoy singing, decide one a song or hymn to start with and one to end with. There are some suggestions at the end.*

You can find the resources on the secure parents area of the website under, 'Parent Help and Advice during Coronavirus'.

## HOME LEARNING RESOURCES

We have recently come across a Home Learning Toolkit shared with us by the Communication and Interaction Team at the Local Authority. Whilst it may arrive a little late there may be something in it that can help you for the last few weeks of lock down. You can find it on the secure parents area of the website under, 'Parent Help and Advice during Coronavirus'.

There is also a list of home learning resources at [Home Learning Resources List for Schools and Families – ChatterPack](#) which you may find useful.

## SCHOOL STAFF

We are sorry to report that Mrs Palmer is currently unwell and unable to be in school. This means that there will be a few staff changes next week and, possibly, for longer. An agency supply teacher will be present in school on Monday and Tuesday (subject to a negative COVID-19 LFT test). The following week some days will be changed between Ms Brown and Mrs Arneil. In addition, Mrs Chapman will be in on Friday (also subject to a negative COVID-19 LFT test). Should the school re-open on 8<sup>th</sup> March, then we have also arranged that Mrs Chapman will cover Mrs Palmer's hours if necessary. She knows the school well, is known to the children and will be the best support we could possibly find for the school.

## CURRICULUM

The topic for this term should have been Blenheim Palace but, owing to lock down, we have switched the summer term 5 topic with spring term 3 topic in the hope that the school can visit Blenheim in term 5. This means that the topic for this term is based on Seurat and materials for KS2 and Seurat and Easter for KS1.

Mrs Palmer's absence, unavoidably, leaves a gap in live lessons for Maple home learners. Ms Brown has selected some Oak academy lessons to help to fill this gap temporarily. Willow and Maple will all be learning from the same English text this term but with differentiated activities. We ask for your understanding in this matter since it has been a rather last minute and unexpected task to cover Mrs Palmer's workload.

We understand that parents may arrange their own working patterns/days around online lessons. We will make every endeavour to inform you if, and when, these lesson times change and apologise in advance lest we forget; we are experiencing significant organisational challenges.

## PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS (PTIs)

PTIs will take place during the week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> March. These will all be undertaken by telephone or video call using Google Meet. Please look out for sign up instructions from Mrs Withey very soon.

Finally, we hope that this letter finds you all safe and well and look forward to working with you once again.

Best wishes,



Valerie Lucas  
Head Teacher