

4th May 2020

Dear Parents,

May the Fourth be with you!

First of all, we must say a huge thank you to everyone for sending in so many emails! Our inbox is usually full of marketing, demands from the local authority or the latest bill! It has been delightful to have emails from parents, showing their appreciation for our work, sending in their photos and sharing ideas. It has been very refreshing and a joy to open our in-box in the morning! We try to reply to all of them but do read and appreciate each one. We know that the other staff feel the same way. They have been working really hard to keep things going over the last few weeks and like us all, have had to adapt to a new way of working. Your positive messages and appreciation have definitely made it all worth it for them too. So thank you (and keep it up!!).

As we mentioned, next Friday (8 May) Britain will be commemorating the 75th anniversary of VE Day when the guns fell silent at the end of war in Europe. Due to the coronavirus restrictions most VE Day 75 events and street parties have had to be cancelled or postponed but there are still some ideas for ways in which you can join in the celebrations. One idea is to make your own special VE Day 75 'Great British Bunting' to display in your window at home. The BBC have a good website with a video explanation and other ideas to get you thinking.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/4TrqYDyf4PMdLypxzyTwGDg/great-british-bunting>

Families in the same household are also being called on to have picnics or buffets to mark the occasion. These can either be held in their garden or indoors. Whatever you decide to do next Friday, do take a photo and email it in – we'll add them to the collection. BBC Oxford are asking people to send them their pictures and to tag them (@BBCOxford) in their social media as well as using the hashtags #GreatBritishBunting and #VEDay75 so that all the effort people put in can be shared far and wide. They'd also love anyone to get in touch with them to share their family stories of VE Day via social media or makeadifferenceoxfordshire@bbc.co.uk.

On Saturday evening, Mrs Smith and I held a quiz for the staff team with one of the favourite rounds being 'Guess which Co-Headteacher'. Much fun was had but most importantly it was a lovely time to connect with each other. We will leave you to guess who won.

This month we will be focusing on the value of '**Hope**'. The value of hope is much more than wishing as hard as we can that things will be different. It is about believing that the world can be better and being prepared to do something! If you have an opportunity to explore this value together as a family, there are some ideas, facts and challenges in the list below:



Spiral of Hope

Start with a circle of paper or light card and draw a spiral. On the spiral write a hope or dream that you have that will make the world a safer, cleaner or healthier place to live. cut along the lines until you get to the centre, leaving a circle in the middle. make a hole in the middle so you can hang your spiral from a thread. (you may want to practice drawing a good spiral on some scrap paper

before you start.)

Or make a 'hope and dreams catcher'. Dream catchers are traditionally made from a looped willow branch onto which a net or web is woven. The net is then decorated with feathers, beads and other decorations. According to American Indian folklore, as we sleep, dreams are caught in the net and with the first rays of sunlight any bad dreams are burned away.



Find a long twig that can be bent and tied to make a hoop or frame. use natural string or thread stretched across the frame to make the net and then decorate it creatively to catch all the hopes and dreams you can.

This week's bedtime story is brought to you by Mrs Heaslip our new job share teacher in Year 5/6. Please watch and enjoy. It will go live on Monday afternoon.

<https://youtu.be/OUhKmez2kFI>

Lastly, we would just like to end on this lovely quote from Albert Einstein which we think is quite appropriate given all the press coverage, schools received over the weekend,

“Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow” Albert Einstein

Have a good week

Mrs Rogers, Mrs Smith and the Clanfield team.