

Saturday 2nd May 2020

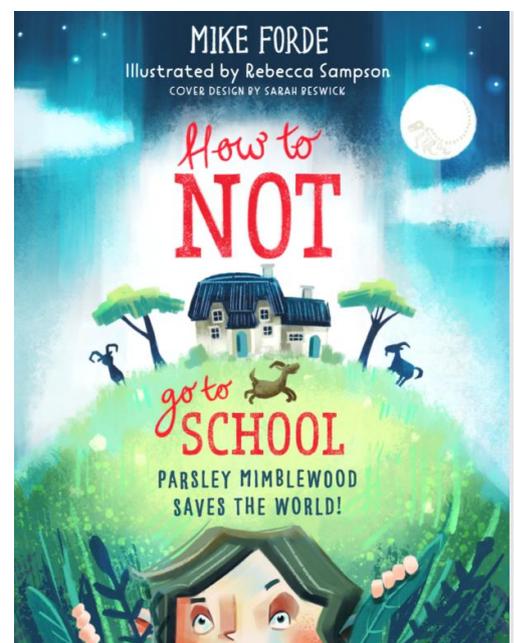
Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well after what has been a very tricky week for many people of our Pye Green Community. I have sensed that this week has been particularly tough and whether this is due to the lack of sunshine, which we all appreciated last week, or the sense that 'lockdown' seems to have no end at the moment, I am not sure. Coupled with unhelpful speculation about when schools may or may not return, the fact that none of us can go and hug those we want to or drink a cup of tea with those who usually share our worries with all adds to the pressures we are all under at the moment. Also the fact that children this week may have pushed back and tested boundaries more than usual, means that I am sure for us all, the weekend is a welcome time to stop, rest, relax and enjoy quality time with our families.

Next week is a new week and if at any point you feel overwhelmed or like you just need to switch off, you have permission to do just that. Put the 'home schooling' away, grab a blanket, snuggle up together and watch some TV, draw or just eat cake ! At times we all have to do what is right for both us and our families, hence this email wasn't sent to you on a Friday night as usual – we too needed that family time in the Yates' household.

If children want to explore some of their own interests next week, allow them to do just that. Maybe they want to 'find out' more about something which intrigues them, work on 'their own' project, make/design something or find some ways to help out - it's fine to 'mix things up' a little. I would love to hear about some of the 'self directed' projects the children have been focussed on and I can then include some of them in next week's letter 😊

Below is a FREE book you might like to share with your child during one of those times you snuggle together under that blanket. It is called "How to NOT go to School" and I think you will all enjoy it. Take a look at <https://parsleymimblewood.files.wordpress.com/2020/05/parsleymimblewoodsavestheworld.pdf>



## Great examples demonstrating our school values in action



This week, one of our families have been helping a local wildlife sanctuary by looking after baby birds whose homes have been destroyed. Amber and Theo have been writing care plans and researching how to care for baby blackbirds and pigeons. They will look after them until they are ready to be released back into the wild.

Olivia has also been very busy while out on her daily walk litter picking in the local area. Olivia requested a litter picker for her birthday and had been filling plenty of bags. Great job Olivia !



## Free School Meals



I am pleased to say that the Free School Meals Vouchers finally seem to have been delivered. Thank you for your patience and also a big 'thank you' to Mrs Matthews for the time she has spent (both day and night) on the Edenred website.

If you feel you still may be eligible for free school meals and therefore a £15 voucher per child, per week for as long as schools are closed, you can apply on the link below. To qualify you must be receiving the benefits listed on last week's letter.

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals/staffordshire>

## CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service) Resources

Lichfield CAMHS have been working hard during COVID Lockdown on developing and creating a resource website and this can be found at <https://www.camhs-resources.co.uk>

## HOPE (Helping our Pupil's Emotions) Project

**Who :** The Hope Project – run by CAMHS professionals.

**What :** As we can't offer face to face parent support at this time we would like to offer ONLINE advice/support via Zoom. In each group we will provide a safe virtual space to get support. But we will be guided by YOU.

**When :** Tues 12th May 6.30-8pm via Zoom

**How :** Register via [hopeproject2016@outlook.com](mailto:hopeproject2016@outlook.com) with Subject line: PARENT/CARER SUPPORT

## **The Impact of Covid-19 on Family Life, Relationships and Wellbeing**

A study is being conducted by the University of Sussex into how families are getting on during this time of lockdown and how they are responding to change. The aim is to track the impact of the COVID-19 restrictions on family life, emotional well-being, and social relationships. They hope that this will improve understanding of the experience and needs of families with young children during times of change and crisis. If you would like to take part in this study, please follow this link <https://tinyurl.com/vagdn2v>



## **Therapeutic Support Adviser Video Number 3**

The third video from Claire Wilson, focussing on 'arguing' will soon be uploaded to our website. You can access this now though by following the link <https://chew.mykajabi.com/messages-pga-3> I believe the video next week is about missing friends and specific words for responding to the loss children are all feeling at the moment.

If you have any feedback regarding these videos or any suggestions for future videos please email [office1@pyegreen.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office1@pyegreen.staffs.sch.uk)

## **Contact with class teachers**

Please continue to contact class teachers via email at least once during the week whether that's to share learning, ask questions, send photographs, request a telephone call etc. Staff will be contacting parents via telephone if they haven't heard from you in a while, just to check that you are OK and to see if you need our support. Those calls will be from 'withheld' numbers, as many staff are working from home, so if possible please try to answer their calls.

I do hope you find some of the resources included within this letter of some use during the next few weeks.

Have a relaxing weekend, take care and stay safe.

Best wishes,

*Sarah Yates*

Acting Headteacher