



Achieving excellence through the pursuit of good

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'GOOD NEWS' Newsletter Eleven: 12th June 2020

Dear Children and Parents,

I want to start by writing to children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 who are not yet in school. I know just how much of a challenge it must be for you at the moment. Every single member of staff would love to see you in school as soon as possible and I know so many of you are desperate to be back.

You have done so well with your home learning, but we know that school is about more than just the work you are doing. It is about being together, being a community and sharing lives together – and that is really difficult at the moment. I want to say to you – keep smiling, keep persevering and know that I, and all the staff, are working hard on possible ways to see you all before the summer holidays, if we can. I can't yet share when or quite what that will look like – but I will write as soon as possible with more information.

Keep going – don't give up – and we WILL see you soon! From, Mr. Purkiss

Whilst we can't yet all be together, it has been lovely to welcome back children in Year R, 1 and 6 this week. I have been so impressed with the mature and sensible attitude displayed by every child – and the joy on their faces as they returned to class. They each appear to have taken all the changes very much into their stride – well done everyone!

Supporting Years 2, 3, 4, 5

Since the Government pull back from reopening primary schools before the summer, we have been working hard exploring a number of options that will provide **further support** to children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5. We recognise that many children will be finding the prospect of not returning for a further extended period distressing and daunting.

We are exploring a number of ways for children to have interaction with their peers, time with their current class teacher and time with their new class teacher before the summer. We will do our utmost to provide further support where child and staff safety are the key drivers in the decision making process.



Ben (3) and Ruby (1) have created these heartfelt posters inspired by the Black Lives Matter campaign. In

school, we continue to promote and support equality and inclusion for all, including the **Black Lives Matter campaign**. The protests have given us the opportunity to further explore this important issue. We have started by increasing the number of resources available to teachers, which we will be using over the coming weeks with our children.



It is important to publicly thank all staff at our school who have shown such an unwavering commitment to our children and provided the very best bespoke home learning and support for those in school. Despite what you may have read in the national media, our school has never closed and most staff have not had any real break since February – and they all continue to do the very best they can with such perseverance and joy!

Almost all staff are currently in school and supporting the various groups and providing home learning and Tapestry videos. Thank you to the many parents who have sent such lovely messages of support. Bathwick certainly has such a strong community that draws together especially at a time of such challenge.

Thank you to our parents...

Last month, children in school wanted to thank their parents who were 'keyworkers' and created this lovely display – recognising what their parents are doing to support us all.



Low immunity danger

Sophie (Year 6) is receiving medication for juvenile idiopathic arthritis. Similarly to **Fabienne** (Year 4), her immunity to a variety of illnesses including Chickenpox, Measles, Mumps, Shingles, Slapped Cheek and Scarlet Fever can put Sophie at **serious risk**. Fabienne's immunity remains compromised putting her potentially at **serious life-threatening risk**. If your child becomes ill - and in particular with one of the illnesses listed above - then please let the school office know as soon as possible. At present, if any child presents at school with even mild symptoms of Covid-19, they will be immediately, but sensitively and carefully, isolated until they can be collected by a parent.

All home learning resources are still uploaded by the end of Friday on our website here: <http://bathwickstmary.org/home-learning-resources-2/>. In addition, following parent feedback, teachers will be uploading Tapestry videos earlier (so they go live on Sunday) as some parents use part of Sunday to prepare for the following week.

THANK YOU children for sending me your brilliant emails! Here is a selection of some of the great learning going on across our school community...



Florence (1) has been doing some fantastic grouping work for maths and has been busy working on her rainbow badge work and earned her fruit and veg badge and her agility badge which included making an obstacle course.

Oliver (3) has been busy walking a mile around his garden which the scouts did across the UK raising money for 'The big night in' with the aim of people walking a collective total of 240,000 miles which is the distance to the moon.



Congratulations to **Ravi** (3) and **Asha** (1) who have together completed a marathon by running laps around their garden over the last week. It was hard work but they did it! **They have raised over £500 for Julian House** and are really pleased with their achievement. Well done to you both!

Ixia (1) has been preparing her brother **Zeno** (-1) for school, since she heard he will be joining her at Bathwick St. Mary's. Class topics have been reading and 'bees are our friends'.



Pip (5) made Viking bread - it turned out like pastry. Apparently Pip and his brother aren't very keen, but mum thinks it's very tasty!



Last month **Frederick** (3) wrote to the Queen to thank her for her special presentation to the Commonwealth and also to wish her happy 94th birthday. He has since received a letter from Windsor Palace from the Queen's Lady in Waiting, to say that the

Queen had asked her to thank Frederick for his kind words and birthday wishes! Frederick couldn't believe it!!! He was incredibly excited and knew exactly what it was as soon as he saw the envelope!

Lucia (2) has been getting crafty with this brilliant model!



Moss (3) has been keeping up with school work and misses his friends & school! He made pineapple upside down cake and helped mum gather wild garlic nearby.



Cato (-1) is extremely pleased to have been offered a place at Bathwick so has been insisting on wearing the Bathwick uniform for his lessons along with **Zibelia** (3) and **Tycho** (1).



Well done to **Ixia** (1) who has completed her first thirty day challenge for the maths-factor, doing at least one practice session a day.

She had lots of fun, coming up with creative ways to solve problems, and wants to do another 30.



Clark (2) and **Rupert** (6) have been making their own T-shirts. Rupert made his on the computer for

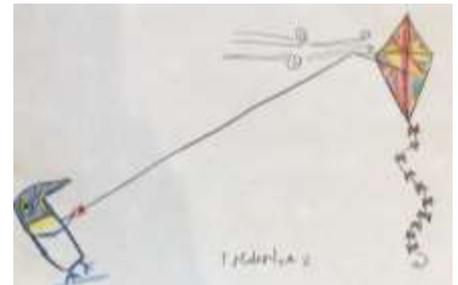
his Fortnite name and Clark drew his own image. They then printed out on transfer paper and ironed onto the T-shirts. Clark has been watching vintage Mickey Mouse cartoons and peg leg Pete is one of the characters from it!

Inspired by Fantastic Mr Fox, and learning about habitats, **Leo B** (2) has made a



model of Mr Fox's tree and den under the ground. **Juliet** (5) has been gardening, repotting her two bean plants (named Bob and Jeff!).

Frederick (3) and **George** (4) have been following Rob Biddulph's online drawing sessions.



(Robbiddulph.com).

Frederick drew Blue Penguin flying a kite whilst George has drawn a mini monster (called Kevin!) and Sonic the Hedgehog.



And finally... some parents may have already enjoyed the 'Bath in Lockdown' video

which can be found here:

<https://vimeo.com/415141939?ref=fb-share&1>

Thank you again for your support. I will be in touch as soon as possible regarding our next steps for children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5.

With my best wishes to all our parents, children and families.

Kevin Purkiss

In the absence of our daily Collective Worship, especially for children, let us think about generosity and how we can help others...

Last week, after a long day at school, I got home and Harry (age 6) was waiting at the window. It looked like he had been playing with all the food in the cupboard and he was absolutely covered in ingredients! As soon as he saw me walk to the front door, he threw it open and held out his arms. He was holding a tray of flapjack that he had made for me that afternoon! He said he knew I would be tired and he wanted to make something to give me lots of energy!



St. Francis of Assisi once said, *'For it is in giving that we receive.'* Harry had certainly given me something delicious to eat – but he had given more than that. He had given of his time and energy in making something for someone else.

Kahlil Gibran was a famous author and artist who was born in the late 1800's. He famously said, *'You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.'* That afternoon, Harry had given of himself – and it meant so much.

Whether you are in Reception, Year 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6, I wonder what you could do this weekend and this week where you could 'give of yourself'. Who in your family could you really bless by doing something loving and unexpected for? Those who look after us at home do so much for us – what could you do to really help them this week?



A prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for the generous, selfless,
boundless love that you share with us.

Help us to 'give of ourselves' this coming week.

Amen