



## In this week's newsletter:

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- Assembly - Our School: Together and Apart

Good morning, what a week! This time last week we were all celebrating VE day in some form or other. I hope you all enjoyed seeing the video montage, thank you to those of you who emailed us your pictures and clips. It is so lovely to still feel connected.

Monday felt especially strange for myself and the Year 6 teachers in particular. This week, our Year 6 children would have been sitting the infamous SAT exams and, whilst we do everything to reassure and calm the children, behind the scenes we are more stressed than them! I'm sorry Year 6 that you haven't had the chance to shine in that way - as a cohort, your predicted grades were really fantastic! I know some of you will be jumping for pure joy that you haven't had to sit through these tests or my pep talk! Whilst others may feel disappointed that your hard work has not been recognised in the way you were expecting. For all of you, completing SATs week and having the infamous end of SATs party is a Pyrford right of passage. Hopefully, you can join together virtually today to support and celebrate with each other. We are very proud of each and every one of you for all the hard work and positive attitude you have put into your learning at Pyrford, both now and before the school closed to you.

Well, I can remember writing to you before school closure telling you it was the hardest thing I'd had to do in my headship and emotionally it really was. But I can officially confirm that cognitively the reopening is much tougher! No doubt, like myself, you were sitting on the edge of your seat last Sunday awaiting news of the lifting of lockdown and the opening of the economy and schools. I think that was the last day I actually sat down for longer than 5 minutes.

We have been issued with continual guidance and I have attended more Zoom meetings than I can count. We have been busy behind the scenes trying to find a way to open the school safely, completing a number of risk assessments. At this stage, like all schools, we are not in a position to present a plan to you. I don't want to raise hopes that the school will open to Nursery, YR, Y1 and Y6, plus key worker/vulnerable children groups in June. We have been tasked with trying to form social 'bubbles' of up to 15 children and 2 adults who use the same space and do not mix with any other social bubbles. Anyone who can do the maths (this takes us to 21 bubbles just from the above-named groups) will be able to work out that we don't have enough classrooms or the staff to meet that requirement safely, whilst also providing home learning for the rest of the school. I receive guidance daily which will be fed into the extensive risk assessment and planning tools we are working with. We will not be able to eliminate totally the risk to children and staff, but we will seek to lessen it as much as possible. Governors and trustees are working together, and in partnership with other academy trusts and schools locally and nationally, to seek clarity and guidance. Once we have agreed that the risk assessment is appropriate and the modelling can work, I will write to you with a plan. Again I reiterate though that June 1st is only 'schools might start to open' and I have no idea when the government will give the green light for that. As schools, we receive decisions and guidance at the same time as the population, so do keep an eye out for the daily briefings and media.

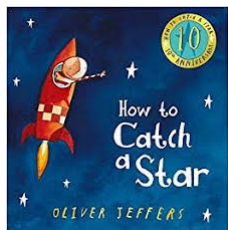
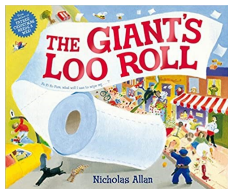
I fully appreciate that this lack of clarity is not helpful and you will have many unanswered questions. I know that there are parents and staff who are concerned about safety and risk, as well as those of you who are struggling at home or who are dependent on the school for childcare. I am grateful to you all for your support as a school community. Your messages and engagement with staff and online learning has been, and continues to be, fantastic. As always, if you need us please get in touch.

Mrs Cockle's son continues to make great progress and we were thrilled to see a video of him getting out of his wheelchair and making a few tentative steps with his crutches. Mrs Gilbey needs your prayers this week; her husband has been critically ill but fortunately has now been released from hospital. Mind you that hasn't stopped her still working despite me nagging her not to! It is her turn to be Florence Nightingale now.

Wishing you all a good weekend with marginally more freedom!

Best wishes.

Kathryn Krynicki  
Headteacher



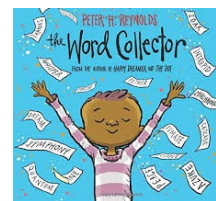
New stories on the school website this week ....

**Mrs Krynicki** reading *The Giant's Loo Roll*

**Mrs Steen** reading *The BumbleBear*

**Mrs Wright** reading *How to Catch a Star*

**Mrs Tolley** reading *The Word Collector*



**8th May 2020 Rock Hero Status has been awarded to:**

#### UKS2

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Kai Clinch
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Cameron Blacker
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Lily Tamerlane-Fitzgerald

#### LKS2

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Annie Whyman-Taylor
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Eadie Chandler
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Lexie Lorch



**For the biggest improvement in correct answers over the last week. Well done Rock Stars!**

**Well done to these classes—you have played more than all the other classes and scored brilliantly!**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Elm Class
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Alder Class
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Maple Class

**This is based on the number of players over the week and Elm Class beat Alder by just 2 players!**

**Keep up the great work everyone! <https://play.ttrockstars.com/ttrs/online>**



**Year 4 are at the top of the leader board for another week - fantastic work! A big well done to our top scorers - Tom, Emelia (again!), Louis and Larch Class!**

	EYFS/Key Stage 1	Lower Key Stage 2	Upper Key Stage 2	Class
1 <sup>st</sup>	Tom Watkins	Emelia Parvin	Louis Hack	4 Larch 176,055,012
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Bella Tubasei	Nicole York	Kai Clinch	4 Alder 96,422,903
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Evie Collomosse	Louie Lorch	Jasper Vickery	5 Cherry 85,248,862



The COVID-19 epidemic has brought with it many disruptions and staying in touch with those close to us is harder than before.

Technology has helped us to navigate this new reality, but many of the challenges families faced online before the lockdown are still there - and some new ones have been introduced.

Fortunately, help is available to those who need it. ParentZone have put together a list of support services, helplines and reporting platforms that might be of use to children, parents and carers in the areas of online safety and digital wellbeing, mental health, child sexual exploitation and abuse, addiction and substance abuse bullying and educational resources.

See their website for more information: [https://parentzone.org.uk/article/where-report-and-get-support-during-lockdown?utm\\_source=Parent+Zone+Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=42cc0db979-](https://parentzone.org.uk/article/where-report-and-get-support-during-lockdown?utm_source=Parent+Zone+Newsletter&utm_campaign=42cc0db979-)



The Church of the Good Shepherd has its own YouTube channel where you can access Sunday services, Midweek Thoughts for the Day, Tots Praise, Mighty Memory Verses and even Open the Book.

You can access this through the church website <http://www.wisleywithpyrford.org/> or go direct to their YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCimU98PEBETjD1yD5Ya9Pnw>

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# Our school: together and apart

## Reflections for 'school' at home: Geese



A note for parents and carers:

At school, your child will be used to taking part in collective worship every day (they might call it 'assembly'). This is not the kind of worship that some of you might have been part of in a religious building. In church schools this collective worship is planned to be:

- **Inclusive:** something for children and teachers, of all faiths or of none to be able to join in with
- **Inspirational:** a time in the day to think about the big questions in our lives; an occasion that supports the school community's spiritual development, creates an opportunity to gather around and reflect on a common theme and 'feeds' their inner being;
- **Invitational:** in school, children and teachers are invited to pray, think, or reflect, it is the child's or teacher's choice how they respond.

At this time, many children will be missing the familiar routines of school. One way in which we can help to keep that sense of normality is by offering these resources to schools to share with their school community at home. Please be clear: these ideas are for you to use, adapt, or not use at all. You choose!

We plan to produce these resources for the weeks that schools are 'at home' and would love to know if there's anything that your school community at home would appreciate. You can find our contact details on the [Diocesan website](#).

Jane Whittington & Rachel Boxer

### Theme: Geese

- There are many things we can learn by looking at the natural world around us, in fact, Jesus himself encouraged his disciples to do just that in one of his most famous lessons, the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus told them to 'Look at the birds.....and look at the flowers' as a reminder not to worry.
- Find the picture of the geese flying, on the next page or using the link [here](#). Geese like this migrate in the winter to warmer parts of the world.

### Things to talk about together:

- Look at the picture together. Are the geese together, or apart? (It does look as if they are practising social distancing!) Or are they both? Share your ideas.
- Is this picture like us at this present time? How? (i.e. we might be socially isolated from some people in our family, friends and people we work with – but we are all doing this together.)
- Geese work as a team, even when flying apart, as in the picture. The flapping of their wings makes it easier for the birds behind them to fly and they take it in turns to be the lead goose. How might we do this (work as a team, take it in turns) with the people in our households during this time?
- Geese 'honk' to encourage each other when they are flying in formation, like in the picture. What do you think they might be 'saying' to one another? What words encourage you?
- Geese also look after each other during their migration and if one bird gets too tired or is injured, two other geese will land with it to keep it company until it is fit to fly again. How can you care for the people in your house at this time? [if someone in your household needs to be isolated, caring for them will be a bit different!]

### Things to do together:

- Make **origami birds** out of paper. You can see a simple video [here](#): although they are not quite geese, the folding is quite simple to follow. Or you could be more adventurous and try a flapping version [here](#).
- Have a day where you really try to **be encouraging** to other people around you: you don't have to honk like a goose unless you really want to (and it's OK with the grown-ups!) Find ways to encourage people you're not able to see at the moment e.g. by calling them on the phone, or sending them a message.
- Make **handprint standing geese**, with the thumb facing upwards, using paint, or by drawing around your hand: your 4 fingers are the body of the goose, with the fingertips becoming the tail feathers, and the thumb becoming the neck. Add a head and legs – and if you have any at home, a googly eye! You can find one to look at [here](#). (Scroll down to see 'G is for Goose')
- **Become a twitcher** (birdwatcher)! You may not be able to watch any geese in flight today, but spend some time looking through your window to see which birds visit your outside space. You could even keep a chart of which birds visit and how many times. If you're able to share your food with the birds, there are some suggestions of what's best to give them [here](#).

### Things to reflect on or pray about together:

In the Bible, Christians read these words: 'Encourage one another and build one another up' (1 Thessalonians 5:11) Think together about how encouragement 'builds' you up.

Then cut paper into brick shapes and on each write an encouragement or positive message for different people in your household. Use the shapes to create a 'wall of encouragement' and as you arrange each person's brick, pray for them if you'd like to. You could use these words:

Dear God

Thank you for.....[person's name] and for all that they do for me. Please bless them. Help me to speak words that encourage them this week. Amen

