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Good morning everyone and happy VE day to you!

I hope you are all keeping well and managing new routines. I appreciate it is a difficult time for everyone and every single family will have had a different pandemic time experience. There will be lots for us at school to pick up with children, families and communities in the months ahead.

As usual there has been much speculation in the press and media about schools reopening. At the time of writing, there has been no formal communication. However, as a nation, we are all awaiting the next steps in lifting lockdown for the country. Once a clear map and parameters have been set for education, we will be working hard behind the scenes to put a plan in place. We will communicate this once we know. We really do appreciate your patience with this.

We've seen some fabulous things that your children have been getting up to on Seesaw. We love seeing the creative things which are uploaded; cooking, lego models, acting, singing, dancing etc. I hope the children appreciate the comments and feedback from teachers. We are also regularly updating our story reading on the school website (see the list of new stories overleaf), so please do encourage your children to watch those, even if it gives you five minutes to make a cup of tea! Children in school have been carrying out learning activities set for them and those in today will enjoy a scaled down VE Day tea party of their own.

I'm pleased to report good news this week on the staff front. Mrs Cockle's son, Nick, has now transferred to the army rehabilitation hospital in Nottingham following his tragic accident and has taken his first steps with the aid of a walker. Shea Carroll is making good progress and has remained at home without hospital readmission for a few weeks now and Vanessa, our caterer, got to deliver her grandchild when he made a surprising appearance in the back of the ambulance at the end of last week!

At this point, I wish to say a heartfelt personal thank you to each and every one of you for your support up until now and I know you are doing the best you can in difficult circumstances. Thanks to parents for changing your lives to support your children, to the children themselves for continuing to engage with school and home life and to staff who are juggling working at home, working in school and your own families. We will continue on this journey, a unique challenge in our lifetimes and careers, and I am very grateful to have you as part of the Pyrford School community during this time.

As always, if you need our help, please reach out. We are at the end of an email and on the phone.

Best wishes.

Kathryn Krynicki
Headteacher

We are putting together a video/photo montage of families and staff celebrating VE Day. If you would like to get involved, please email any photos or short video clips (10 seconds maximum) to Mrs Murray who will compile a video for posting on the website, Facebook and Seesaw. By emailing your clips, you are giving your explicit permission for them to be distributed online.

We look forward to seeing your celebrations! **(BY SUNDAY EVENING please)**

Email to: s.murray@pyrford.surrey.sch.uk

Refunds for trips

We are currently in the process of claiming via the school's insurance policy for residential trips/day trips that have been paid for and now cancelled. Please bear with us, this is a huge administrative task but we aim to get refunds to you as soon as possible. The process for refunding monies will be via BACS payments only. You will receive a form to complete for each trip as and when the school receives the insurance reimbursements. Unfortunately there will not be the option for the school to hold your payments as future credits.

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

UKS2

1st Place: Sarah Devapragasam

2nd Place: Daniel Mullins

3rd Place: Kai Clinch

LKS2

1st Place: Annie Whyman-Taylor

2nd Place: Lexie Lorch

3rd Place: Emelia Parvin



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!

1st Place: Alder Class

2nd Place: Elm Class

3rd Place: Maple Class

With Larch Class very close behind Maple!

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

New stories on the school website this week

Miss Daly reading *The Day the Crayons Quit*

Mrs Booker reading *Hairy Maclary Sit*

Mrs Hope, Imogen & Holly reading *I Love You Blue Kangaroo*

Mrs Goree reading *Somebody Swallowed Stanley*.



This week's scores are shown below - well done everyone!

| | EYFS/Key Stage 1 | Lower Key Stage 2 | Upper Key Stage 2 | Class |
|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1 st | Faghiyah Hussain | Emelia Parvin | Lauren Modlock | 4 Larch 171,914,406 |
| 2 nd | Tom Watkins | Muhammad-Zakariyya Hussain | Kai Clinch | 4 Alder 138,927,330 |
| 3 rd | Sadiqah-Noor Mehmood | Nicole York | Sofia Suleman | 2 Cedar 114,966,000 |



Barefoot Computing have produced some great resources to support develop children's computing skills whilst learning at home.

Visit <https://www.barefootcomputing.org/homelearning> for fun and creative activities



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>

Dear all our loyal customers, parents, friends and little adults,

We've missed you!

At **Valentino Schoolwear** we know things are hard right now,

so, we're making our **Annual Discount Promotion** for 2020 *bigger* and *better* than ever before and *available online* for all our customers.



15% OFF All school uniform purchases: **18th – 31st May 2020**

Use discount code **MAY15** at the point of checkout

10% OFF All school uniform purchases: **1st – 16th June 2020**

Use discount code **JUNE10** at the point of checkout

Returns: All items are subject to our normal returns policy. **Therefore, anything purchased now can be exchanged right up until schools open for the next school year.**

These offers are available online and in store, by making an appointment (should we be able to open our doors before the end of the promotional period). Not to be used in conjunction with any other offers.

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Our school: together and apart

Reflections for 'school' at home: Freedom



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: Freedom! (VE Day 75th celebrations)

- This special reflection is for the 75th Anniversary of VE Day, 8th May 1945, which marked the end of WW2 in Europe. Perhaps at no other time in recent history will children have a better chance to reflect on how it must've felt to be 'free', from our current perspective in lockdown. This collective worship is not designed to take away from the importance of marking this day, but it may be harder to think about freedom whilst we are not quite 'free' ourselves! We refer to some words from the Bible written in the Old Testament, but also spoken by Jesus, in Luke chapter 4 verse 18. The picture on the next page might be a useful focus for discussion.

Things to talk about together:

- What does it mean to be 'free'? Does it mean that we can do anything we want? Why / why not?
- What do you know about World War II – and what happened when the war ended, on VE Day, 75 years ago? Talk about how you think it felt as you look at the photos [from https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/inspire-me/ve-day/ve-day-in-pictures/](https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/inspire-me/ve-day/ve-day-in-pictures/) & <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/48201749> Talk about the similarities & differences to life today, and for us, in lockdown!
- We are in lockdown at the moment: are we 'free', or not? We are not at war: there are still many things that we can do, but in other ways, we are perhaps less free than people during the War Years. What do you think?
- Jesus talked about the importance of freedom in God's kingdom – and said that he had come to 'bring freedom' for those who were 'in chains'. What do you think he meant?
- There are many parts of the world where people are not 'free' and where the poor are treated unfairly e.g. they are not allowed to go to school at all because they are too poor, or they are a girl. Is this anything like being in 'chains'? Does this change how you feel about school 'at home'?

Things to do together:

- **Hold a VE tea party 'with a distance'** (ensuring social distancing is maintained!): this could be as simple as decorating your window with red, white & blue home-made bunting so others can see from outside, or having a cup of tea all at the same time on your doorsteps, or baking some Prue Leith VE Flapjacks, using the ideas on <https://ve-day75.gov.uk/plan-your-ve-day-party/>. There's even a 1940s-inspired playlist you can play on Spotify – and maybe have a sing-along! There are also ideas here <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/siteassets/home/visit/ve-day-75/eh-ve-day-at-home-pack.pdf>.
- **Find out about rationing** and which food items were difficult to obtain in and beyond the war years. How does this compare with what we're finding hard to find on our supermarket shelves? Why not try a few recipes?!
- **Plan a 'freedom' party** for your household or neighbours, ready for when we are allowed to relax the social distancing rules. Sadly, at the moment, this will only be ideas – and younger children might find it harder to be patient with the timescale.
- **Decorate the large words 'chains' & 'freedom'** in red, white and blue, or with pictures of things that come to mind when you think about these words.

Things to reflect on or pray about together: you'll need red, white and blue paper (or coloured-in white paper)

Cut red, white and blue strips of paper: in lockdown, there are things that we're not able to do and things that feel like 'chains' e.g. being inside a lot; being ill. On the strips of paper, write all these things, one per strip & make them into a paper chain. Pray about each strip as you make the chain if this is something that you are comfortable with. When lockdown ends, you can 'break the chains' – or if you prefer, break them now as a way to remind you that 'freedom' will come – and to help you release pent-up emotions!



freedom

children