

# OLD CATTON NEWSLETTER

Tel: 01603 426973

[www.oldcatton.norfolk.sch.uk](http://www.oldcatton.norfolk.sch.uk)

e-mail: [office@oldcatton.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@oldcatton.norfolk.sch.uk)

Executive Headteacher:

Mrs. A. D. Best-White MA

Head of School Mrs. K. Connelly



## Issue 10 Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2020 Children's Newsletter

Dear Children,

I hope that you had a good week last week. What did you get up to in Half Term? Hopefully you enjoyed a little break from home learning and were able to have some fun. Remember, if you'd like to share any photos with us – we love to see what you've been doing. You can email them to your teachers and we can also add them to our Gallery online. If you haven't had a look recently, go onto our website and you'll find photos of lots of our pupils up to all sorts of exciting things!

My half term was a combination of working and trying to take some time off too. Daisy and Freddie were very happy not to have to complete their lessons at home, (poor them for having two teachers as their parents!) We spent time in the garden enjoying the sunshine. We went on some great bike rides around our local area and Freddie and Rob played tennis with a new pop-up tennis net that we found online. Freddie loves it!



Ice cream in the garden!

(You can also see Freddie's tennis net in the background.)

I also needed to carry on working, for us to stay open at White Woman Lane for the children of Critical Workers and to start to get Old Catton's site ready to slowly re-open. All your teachers have been doing the same. You may have heard on the news that schools are being re-opened gradually. At Old Catton we are setting up for the children of Critical Workers and for some of Year 6 who want to come back. The school isn't able to be open for everyone yet because in order to make sure that we are socially distancing we need a lot more space than normal! We can only have a small number of pupils in one classroom and the teachers have to be able to keep the pupils and themselves safe whilst in school. It all looks very different and takes a lot of organising.



This is a photo of my classroom at school. You can see that the desks have to be spaced apart and only one pupil can work at each table. You can see why we can only have a small number of pupils back! Normally a classroom would accommodate up to 30 pupils in one lesson! It just can't work like that at the moment.

If you have come past school this week you may have noticed the smiley faces on the fences and gates. This is to help the pupils who are coming back, know where to line up at the start of the day. When we are normally at school we have big groups of pupils and parents gathered together at the start and end of the school day. We can't run things in this way at the moment so we have to stagger the start and finish of the day and have different entrances and exits for each group of pupils. Socially distancing means no groups outside of school and no catching up and chatting to friends and other families at the end of the day.

As you can probably start to see, it really is very different to how school would normally operate. Next week those pupils who are coming back to school will begin attending in their "Bubbles" – this is the new name given to classes or groups of children. We are all looking forward to seeing these pupils and welcoming them

back but I expect it will feel quite strange for all of us. I will let you know how it all goes next week!

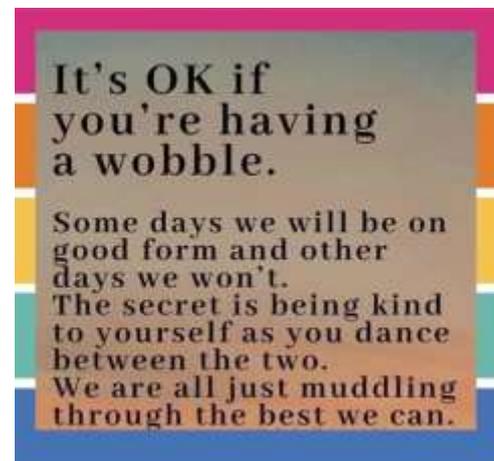


For all of you learning from home this week and into the next weeks of this half term, our school website is constantly being updated with new work for you to complete at home. We have added new tasks for each class, set by your teachers. You can complete these for reading, writing and maths and submit them to your teachers so that they can see your work. We will continue to do this every week, with the updated work being added on a Monday. In addition to this we have added subject specific tasks too that you can find under home learning – subjects. There are also new additions to each drop down menu e.g. Picture News and the Lego tasks to give you new ideas and challenges each week to try out. Don't forget that you can also access The Oak Academy at <https://www.thenational.academy> and BBC Bite Size. These are great websites that cover the National Curriculum objectives for your year groups.



We know that you have now been away from school for a long time. We understand that it may be difficult to complete work at home for various reasons. We also understand that your motivation and desire to work at home may be pretty low by now. If you are finding it hard to do much school work, try to focus on keeping it simple and manageable. The most important things to keep up, are to read regularly, to write regularly so that you remember how to and to practise your times tables and calculation methods. If you carry on doing these things, in whatever format you prefer – you will be keeping your mind active and you won't forget how to do these important foundations of learning. When we do all come

back to school, you will be able to use these skills to help you settle back into your learning in the classroom. We also understand that being away from school for so long and not being able to fully socialise, has meant that you are probably really missing your friends and family too. It is hard and we all miss the social part of our lives. In order to stay in touch with friends and family we have all had to get creative. Daisy and Freddie have been Facetiming their friends regularly and using Google Hangouts and games online to connect with their friends. We have been using Facetime or WhatsApp video calls to stay in touch with people. Up until a few months ago I had never heard of Zoom! But now Zoom and Teams meetings seem to be a part of my daily work and home life. I know it's not the same as being in person with other people but it gives us a way to stay in touch, continue working and not feel isolated. You can still talk through how you are feeling with your friends online or on the phone, you can share jokes and play – it's just in a different way. I think it's also important to remember that this won't last forever. Things are slowly changing and guidance is slowly being adjusted so that we can all see more people and have some of our social lives back. You have been patient but you need to dig deep to find your next bit of strength to see you through the coming weeks. I know you can do it.



Last week I took the plunge and re-potted our sunflowers! I have replanted them in our front garden in the hope that they will like their new spot and grow bigger than they can in their pot. So far it's not looking great! They seem a bit unhappy and despite us watering them and keeping them under a very watchful eye, they are a little droopy! I need you all to keep your fingers crossed that they bounce back. We need positive sunflower energy please in order to make sure they carry on growing! (The sunflowers are the plants growing up the stakes. The others are hostas.)



Have a great weekend; stay safe and take care,

Mrs Connelly