

OLD CATTON NEWSLETTER



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Dear Children,

I hope that you have all managed another good week accessing the live lessons and submitting your work from home. We all continue to be so impressed with your commitment and effort with how you are having to learn at the moment. You are doing a fabulous job!

You Are
Fabulous!

Snow day!

Wasn't last Saturday fun!? I know the snow didn't last for long but on Saturday morning, for a few hours before it all turned to slush, it felt a little bit magical to have snow on the ground. We got out early and went for a walk in Catton Park. Daisy and Freddie loved building a snowman and of course having a snowball fight! (Getting snow down the back of your jumper is awful isn't it!?) Unfortunately for me and Daisy, Freddie and Rob are much better shots than us. Once we were completely frozen through, we went home to warm up with hot chocolates and blankets on the sofa. Lovely. I hope you all got to enjoy some snowy fun too. The weather forecast says there's a 30% chance of snow this Sunday – so watch this space for some more potential wintery fun!



In a blizzard!



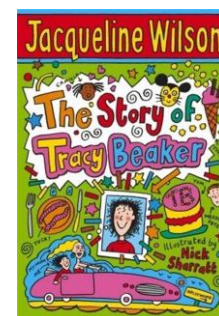
Our school looking beautiful in the snow



St Margaret's Church

Books online

Oak National Academy has created a library since schools moved to remote learning for the majority of pupils. Formed with The National Literacy Trust, the library will provide a book a week from its author of the week and children will be able to access books online for free. The first book to feature is Dame Jacqueline Wilson's *The Story Of Tracy Beaker*, and will be available to access free for the remainder of this week. There will then be another title chosen next week.

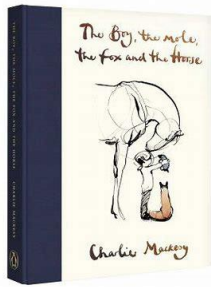


The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse

There is also a freebie about this book on BBC Sounds. I believe it is available for the next 14 days. It is a beautiful 50 minute recording, where the author tells the story and has actually added additional narration with narrative descriptions of his drawings.



“Experience the world of a curious boy, a greedy mole, a wary fox and a wise horse who find themselves together, in sometimes difficult terrain, sharing their greatest fears and biggest discoveries about vulnerability, kindness, hope, friendship and love.”



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000r630>

Next Week's Challenge with live lessons!

I have been trying to dive into some of your live lessons this week to get a real feel for how the teachers are teaching you and how you are learning and engaging with your work. I have noticed that many of you, (particularly in Year 5 and 6) do not like to answer questions or put your cameras on to speak with the teacher or the class. I completely understand that you are in a totally different environment. You are not all together, in our classrooms, wearing your uniforms and sitting at your desks. You are at home, maybe in your bedroom or your living room, (maybe still in your pjs!) And that all these things might mean you don't feel entirely comfortable putting your video on or sharing your ideas and answers with the class.

Next week I would like you to try and get a bit braver at answering questions from home. Think about it in the same way that you would in class. What would we say to you to reassure you in school? Your teachers would say:

- Have a go!
- It doesn't matter if you get it wrong.
- Your opinion is valid.
- Sometimes there is more than one answer or no right answer at all!
- If you ask a question, at least one other person will also want to know the answer and you have been brave enough to ask it.
- Asking questions is a strength not a failure.
- Sharing your ideas helps others to generate their own.
- Contributing to your class discussions helps you feel more involved in the learning.
- We are all in the same boat! Learning new things; succeeding at some things and making mistakes as we go. That's what learning is all about.

So next week, when your teachers ask you to, please have a try at answering questions and putting your camera on when it's appropriate.



Finally, if you have not heard or seen the poem written and delivered by Amanda Gorman, the youngest poet ever to perform at a presidential inauguration, it is well worth a watch. In her poem, "The Hill We Climb" she called for "unity and togetherness". Her words are relevant to all of us and to the world we are all living in at the moment. If you have time click on the link below and listen to her poem.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-55738564>

My favourite line is:

...*"for there is always light if only we're brave enough to see it, if only we're brave enough to be it."*



Take care and have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Connelly
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