

OLD CATTON NEWSLETTER



Tel: 01603 426973

www.oldcatton.norfolk.sch.uk

e-mail: office@oldcatton.norfolk.sch.uk

Executive Headteacher:

Mrs. A. D. Best-White MA

Head of School Mrs. K. Connelly



Issue 5 Friday 24th April 2020 Children's Newsletter

Dear Children,

I hope that you have all had a good first week back to the Summer Term! How strange for all of us that we have started a new term but not in school! It's very odd and I am sure that trying to get back into doing some home-school work hasn't been easy. Hopefully if you've had a look at the school website you will have seen that we have updated your year 3/4 and year 5/6 task sheets. There is also lots of new additional links and tasks including: resources and a competition from the author Luke Temple, new Picture News resources and the final chapters of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory read by your teachers.

Next week we are going to be starting another new option for you to learn. Your parents will be getting a letter today explaining a new system on our website where you can access, complete and then submit work to your teacher. There will be a reading, writing and maths task set for you every Monday by your teacher. You can then complete the work online, using the online form and submit the work as you finish it. Your teacher will see your work and all of your answers! They will then post any answers that you need on a Friday so that you can see how well you did. This is another way that we have tried to provide you with work at home. It's not compulsory and as I have said before, everyone's situation is different and everyone wants and prefers different ways of learning. This is a way that you can work directly with your teacher setting you work that they have chosen and submitting it to them so that they can see your efforts. Hopefully lots of you will really enjoy this new addition. Log onto the school website <http://www.oldcatton.norfolk.sch.uk> on Monday, find your class, and give it a try! Remember – doing the best you can is all we ask.

This week I have been getting Daisy and Freddie back up and running with their home-school work. Freddie has been making pictograms out of paperclips. He likes learning when it's more practical and active so I'm trying to think of ways to make formal learning more enjoyable for him.

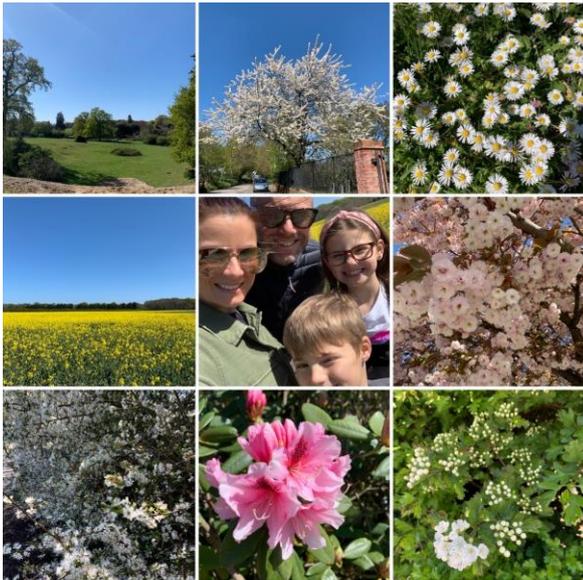


Daisy helped him to complete a jigsaw puzzle of the world and then we found out about some famous buildings in London. Both Daisy and Freddie wanted to find out about Tower Bridge so they investigated some facts about it and made fact sheets.



Daisy has been learning to play chess with her Grandpa and they have found an online site where they can both play together – she has loved that! (And I think Grandpa

has too.) We all went for a long walk at the weekend and took pictures of all the beautiful flowers that we found along the way. Spring really is in full bloom at the moment and the lanes around Old Catton looked lovely!



However, I don't want you to think that this is all easy breezy and that I have this all sorted and under control – because I can assure you I do not! Juggling work and home-schooling and being at home all day long is hard and there are times when we all struggle. That is normal. Feeling fed up, irritated by your family, having arguments and disagreements, wanting some of your own space, feeling sad, worried or anxious are all completely normal reactions to this situation.

Daisy and Freddie have both had their fair share of arguments, normally about silly things and resulting in losing precious time on their devices. Rob and I have had cross words about silly things too! Who's not put the washing out, who needs to Hoover today, who has left the coffee cups in the bathroom!!! And we've all had down days where we feel really fed up with this situation. We miss our family and friends, we miss our time apart doing our own things and being our own people. We miss our routines and the structure and familiarity that brings us. We miss going to places we like and doing activities we enjoy. We miss parties and getting together and treats and days out. So it's normal that we have to take the good days with the bad. If you're having a bad day – don't think that you're the only one. For every happy photo I show you, I could also show you one of Freddie having a meltdown or me trying to reply to 100 emails whilst also answering calls, replying to texts and trying to teach my children! This can be hard for all of us, so remember the bad days are to be expected and the good days are to be enjoyed when they come along. That is all normal.

As you all know we have been trying to grow some sunflowers since lockdown began. They are now 5 weeks old and growing nicely. This week I found out about a campaign all about sunflowers that I thought you might like to try. Over the past few weeks, Clap for Carers on a Thursday evening has become a weekly way of saluting our NHS heroes on the frontline of this fight against the Covid-19 virus. Blue light services across Norfolk, together with the EDP, have come together to launch a campaign offering families the chance to share some sunshine too.

People are being urged to put up drawn, painted or even knitted pictures of sunflowers in the windows of their

homes across Norfolk which, when seen by police officers out on patrol – or other emergency services staff – could result in a packet of sunflower seeds being posted through the door to be grown.

The idea of the Sunflower campaign is to spread some positivity in these difficult days, while encouraging communities to show solidarity for the stay at home message and sow the seeds for a brighter future. The scheme also helps to demonstrate how our emergency services and other agencies like teachers, delivery drivers and binmen are working together to help protect and support the NHS through these unprecedented times. Norfolk Police's assistant chief constable Julie Wvendth said: "The idea is to bring some sunshine and happiness to others at this challenging time and to try and replicate that physically by the growing of sunflowers outside people's homes." The Norfolk force has been supplied with 10,000 packets of seeds, which will be given to those displaying posters with instructions to grow them in their front gardens so they can show that the county is united.



This is how you can get involved!

Create a poster or picture of a sunflower and put it in your window or you can colour in posters – <https://www.norfolk.police.uk/news/campaigns/grow-your-support> Once put up in windows if a police officer – or member of the other blue light services – spots a sunflower in your window while out working, they will post sunflower seeds through the door to plant.

The sunflower was chosen because it can be planted and families can watch it grow over the next few weeks and months helping to provide something to look forward to. What a great idea to spread a positive message. Let's get painting sunflowers!

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend and I look forward to seeing how many of you submit your work to your teachers next week!

Take care and stay safe,

Mrs Connelly



Our sunflower seeds – week 5 and growing nicely!