

OLD CATTON NEWSLETTER

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Issue 8 Friday 15th May 2020 Children's Newsletter

Dear Children,

Well done for another week at home! You are continuing to be superstars and from what I have heard from your teachers making their calls to you, the emails and photos I have received and the conversations I have had, you are all coping amazingly well.



It's been a very confusing week for me and your teachers. I am sure that you have heard that the Government have begun to ease the lockdown restrictions and encourage people to return to work if they can't do their jobs at home. They have also said that they would like schools to begin re-opening for more children – in our case as a Junior School – starting with Year 6. At the moment, we are all working really hard to come up with plans for how this will all work. You and your parents will hear from us as soon as we have firm plans to share with you. It's very difficult as the ever-changing situation has to be monitored very carefully all the time by the scientists to tell us if it is safe to go back to school.

Thank you and well done to everyone who has submitted work to your teachers this week. You have been brilliant and we are so proud of you for trying your best. In total, last week you all submitted 411 pieces of work to your teachers!!! How amazing is that?



This week your class teachers have been continuing to call everyone to catch up with you and see how you are. I know that they have really enjoyed speaking to you and your families. Thank you for chatting to them and keeping them up to date with how you are and what you've been doing.

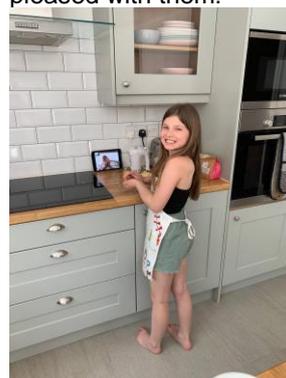
I hope that you were all able to celebrate VE Day last Friday. Wasn't the weather lovely, sunny and warm. Our neighbours made us some homemade scones with cream and jam and we had a little front garden picnic with our close. It was so lovely to be able to catch up with people – even if it was from a distance.



Old Catton looking lovely in the sunshine with the bunting up for VE Day.

Along with juggling work, Daisy and Freddie have started a new project this week on the Environment. They have both thought about things they would like to find out about and are working to research them. Daisy wants to know: is there rubbish in space? How can we manage all the plastic waste we produce and what will the future look like? Freddie on the other hand wanted to find out about where all our poo goes! (I suppose if you ask a 7 year old boy what they want to know, then you have to deal with the consequence of what they say!) I have gone with it and we have been finding out all about how our dirty sewage water is treated and turned into clean water. (It's surprisingly interesting!)

As well as this, Daisy has completed another online cooking tutorial with her Nanny and make lemon biscuits and I have been re-planting some of my garden pots to try and brighten things up. I have to say I was pretty pleased with them!



Freddie has joined me on a run this week. We are trying to slowly get him up to 3 miles. This was after he'd completed 2 miles with me.



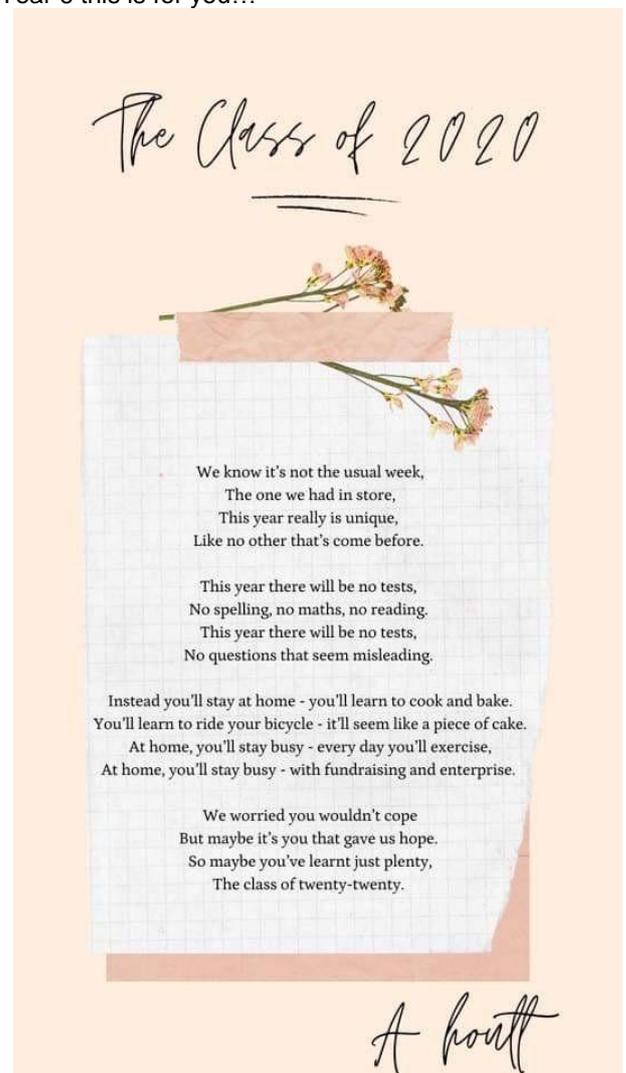
The week beginning the 11th May 2020 should have been a very important week in our school calendar for one year group in particular. It should have been SATs week for Year 6. If it had been a "normal" week, year 6 would have been sitting their end of KS2 tests. We should have been setting up exam rooms, covering display boards, putting out equipment, changing timetables, we should have been running breakfast clubs, with Mrs Morgan serving up toast and bacon sandwiches in Miss Emrick's classroom, we should have been settling year 6 and reminding them that all they need to do is their best, we should have been feeling the nerves and excitement that comes with the exam season, enjoying the camaraderie of friends talking over the questions in the extra long break times that follow a test, we should have been united in our school effort to help year 6 through this important time and celebrate with them at the end of it, we should have been looking forward to all the fun bits that year 6 get to take part in once they've worked so hard towards their SATs.

It feels unfair that this year's year 6 haven't been able to do that. Not that I like tests or even agree that they reflect what any child is capable of because of course they don't. You are all more than a test and we tell you that all the time. So it's not the lack of tests I'm talking about or missing this week – it's the right of passage that year 6 haven't been able to be part of. The things that they see year 6 do as year 3s, year 4s and year 5s as they move up the school. The things that they think – one day that will be me. I'll get to do that too. That's why I feel sad that year 6 have missed out of this – their chance to shine.



However! I want to say a huge well done to all of year 6, regardless of SATs! Tests don't reflect what you are capable of and we know that you would have given SATs your all, you would have risen to the challenge, done your very best and made us all incredibly proud of you. So we already know, all we need to know, about all of you – you have worked hard through all of KS2 and none of this changes that. You have overcome individual battles and hardships, problems and difficulties, you've achieved brilliant things, learnt so much both academically and personally, you've had great days in school and terrible ones, you've grown physically (many of you are now taller than me – not that that's much of an achievement to boast about!) and emotionally, you've made friendships, some of which will last a lifetime and you've got all your memories of your times over the years at OCJS. Not taking your SATs doesn't change any of that.

Year 6 this is for you...



I hope you have a wonderful weekend and enjoy time together with your families. Maybe you will get out in the garden, play nicely with your siblings, enjoy a film, read a book, sleep in late, dance to music you love. Whatever you do – have fun and keep smiling.

Take care and stay safe,

Mrs Connelly



