

# OLD CATTON NEWSLETTER



Tel: 01603 426973

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



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Dear Children,

To start off this week's newsletter I want to say a huge "well done!" to all of you who have completed and submitted your online work to your teachers. We have been so pleased and proud of you for trying your best. It's all a bit new for all of us – your teachers included but what you are showing us is how brilliant you are at adapting the way you can learn and share your work with us. I know that your teachers have loved receiving it. This week we have set more tasks for you to try. We will keep adding new tasks every Monday so that you can log on to the website and find your online class work.



This week you may have received a call from your teacher. If you haven't heard from them yet, don't worry! They are working their way through their class lists to call each and every one of you over the next couple of weeks. When lockdown began, none of us knew how long we would be away from school. As we are now coming to the end of week 7, we thought that it was time to call you and have a chat! I know it may be a bit strange to speak to your teacher on the phone but when we're at school we all chat to each other all the time – so try to think about it just like that. Your teachers miss you and want to make sure that you are ok, you haven't forgotten who they are and that they keep your relationship with them alive, even if, for the moment, we are not yet back in school. Tell them what you've been up to, how things are and ask them about their lockdown experience. Teachers are people too and they have been going through this as well, so have a chat together and enjoy some time talking like we would in the classroom.

On Friday it is a Bank Holiday – a National Holiday to celebrate VE Day (Victory in Europe). We would like you to have the day off school work! If things were normal,

you would have had a day off school and a long weekend, so this Friday is exactly that; a holiday.

On 8 May 1945, thousands of people gathered for parties on the streets of London's West End and all over the country, for the announcement of peace after six years of the Second World War. Before Coronavirus, there were huge celebrations planned to mark 75 years since this day but obviously they have had to be cancelled due to the pandemic and current lockdown. However, there are still ways you can celebrate and remember that do not involve gatherings and parties.



Miss Richardson has put together some songs for you from the era – they are on the website under the home learning tab and Music. Have a look and maybe you and your family could learn some new songs together.

At 11am, a national two-minute silence will be held to reflect on the sacrifice of those who fought in the war. At 3pm, Britons are being invited to take to their doorsteps to raise a glass, cheer and clap during The Nation's Toast to the Heroes of World War Two. People have also been encouraged to mark the occasion with a picnic in their front gardens and have socially distanced parties on their driveways. You could also plan to hold virtual celebrations with friends and family over video calls using Zoom, FaceTime or Houseparty etc. Then, at 9pm, a pre-recorded speech by the Queen will be broadcast. This is the very same moment that her father, King George VI, addressed the people over the radio on May 8<sup>th</sup> 1945.



If you and your family take part in any of your own VE Day celebrations, take some pictures and send them into me so we can see what you have been up to – we'd love to see them!



This week we have put together a short video message for you all that we have posted on the school website and text out to all your families. All the teachers made art work, wrote you a message or made a video to let you know how much we miss you all. Miss Strange and Miss Reeves used their technical expertise to make the clips into a video. I think they did a brilliant job – thank you so much to them for all their hard work. We really hope you enjoyed it – if you haven't seen it yet, here's the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kbZkcdPzIHs&feature=youtu.be>



The letter message from the video has now made it's way onto the fence outside school. I took this photo on one of my runs. It really made me smile when I saw it.

This week at home Freddie wanted to make a scarecrow! Rob has put down some new grass seed to try and get our lawn looking a bit better but the pigeons keep eating it all! Freddie decided enough was enough and designed and made his own scarecrow to frighten the birds away. I'm not sure the pigeons really care as they still seem to be all over the grass! But, Freddie was very pleased with his efforts.

Daisy has been baking and made some biscuits with her Nanny. Obviously this could not be in person; instead Daisy's Nanny Facetimed her and they did an online cooking lesson together! I wasn't allowed to help at all and Daisy did everything from start to finish. The kitchen was a bomb site afterwards but she loved it and the biscuits were really good!



Finally, this week I have attached a video to this week's newsletter. It is a beautiful story, told through a narrative poem. The meaning behind it is clear – when looking back on this time we are currently living through, we will see that some of the ways we had been living were unnecessary, damaging and unhealthy. This time has shown us that as people we can be better. We can be stronger than we knew, adaptable to change even though it feels uncomfortable, kind to people we've never met and untied as a nation and world in a joint challenge that we all need to battle together. We may not be physically fighting a war like the heroes of the first and second World Wars but we are fighting our own invisible enemy that requires strength, sacrifice and a new way of thinking. Together we will get through this and on the other side, let's keep the positives that have grown from this crisis.



Have a lovely weekend,  
Mrs Connelly