

# OLD CATTON NEWSLETTER

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## Issue 9 Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020 Children's Newsletter

Dear Children,

I hope that you have all had a great week at home. I can't believe that it is half term next week! We have all done a whole half term since Easter at home. It's such a strange thought when we stop and think about the time that has passed. I very much want you all to have a half term break next week. We won't be setting you work online until after half term so you can relax, unwind and play during half term.



If you'd like to send us in any photos of your half term fun then we'd love to see what you've been up to! My two can't wait to have some time off school work and have been thinking about things they'd like to do during the holiday time. We have dusted down the paddling pool this week as the sun has been shining and Freddie's new bike has arrived! He has outgrown his old one so we are hoping that now we can get out for some family bike rides together. Daisy wants to do some more cooking as she's been loving her online lessons with her Nanny. At least that will mean lots of yummy treats to try!

This week Daisy and Freddie have been doing a science experiment to see who could protect an egg most effectively, so that it could survive being dropped from a first floor window without cracking. They both had an egg box and loads of materials to use to help soften it's fall. Here are their master pieces! Daisy's came complete with parachute and Freddie's had "wings" to help it float down. (I'm not sure what the cupcake cases were meant to add to Freddie's box – but there you go!)

We dropped them from our first floor window and both of them survived! Neither cracked! Daisy and Freddie were both very proud of their designs and loved making them.



This week has been all about planning, planning, planning for me! I have been very busy trying to put in place plans for us re-opening Old Catton Junior School from the 1<sup>st</sup> June. This will be only for our Essential Worker children first and then onto a phased return for some of our Year 6 pupils. It has been a huge job and one that could continue to change as we still need to wait for the Government to tell us if we are to re-open or not! I have felt a bit like I'm juggling 101 different things, whilst trying to ride a unicycle!



During lockdown, everyone has missed seeing family and friends. It's been one of the hardest parts of these past few months. I have been lucky enough to receive some surprises in the post from family and friends who have thought about me. These pick me ups have been such a lovely reminder that even though we can't see people who mean a lot to us – they are still there and thinking of us from afar. They always seem to arrive when I most need a little reassurance or I've been having a tough day. This week Daisy, Freddie, Rob and I received a delivery of 4 cupcakes from my sister and Bobby, my nephew. The cupcakes were delicious and the note that came with them made me smile. I wonder if you have been lucky enough to receive a letter, card or gift from anyone special to you?



The sunflowers we planted all those weeks ago continue to grow. I think they now need moving out of their pot and into the ground so that they can grow taller and stronger. I am going to try and move them into a flower bed over half term. Hopefully they will be happy in their new place and continue to get bigger. I really want them to flower later on in the summer! I know many of you have been gardening and growing things too – how are they doing? Maybe we could have a sunflower growing competition and see who's can grow the tallest!?



This week I have had some days when I have felt very up against it. The length of time that we have all been living in this way is mounting up now and it can sometimes feel difficult. I am so lucky that I have my family, a safe home, a job I love and all of you to keep me going when I am having a bad day. I think it's ok to have a bad day or two and admit to ourselves and other people that that's how we feel. It's ok not to feel ok sometimes! We all have to remember that everyone has those days and we're not alone when we feel that way. It can sometimes feel that we must be the only ones who feel upset, tired, bored, frustrated, angry or sad but we're not! It may seem like everyone else around us has it sorted but trust me... everyone has days when things go wrong, they feel alone or unhappy.

I really liked this quote from the bible. Things may be hard, confusing, and tiring at the moment but they will always get better and we can always find an inner strength when we re-focus and remember that things will be ok.



Your teachers and I continue to be incredibly proud of all of you. We want you to be able to enjoy your half term break and forget about home learning for now. Get outside, enjoy the sunshine, play games, have water fights, go for walks, ride your bikes, call your friends, play online, colour in, make a cake, have a lie in, take a bubble bath! Whatever you like to do to relax and unwind; find some time for you.

When we come back after half term we will be updating you all on our online provision and how school will look as we move into the second half of the summer term. For now, much of this remains uncertain but we are planning for every eventuality as best we possibly can.

Have a wonderful half term everyone!

Mrs Connelly

