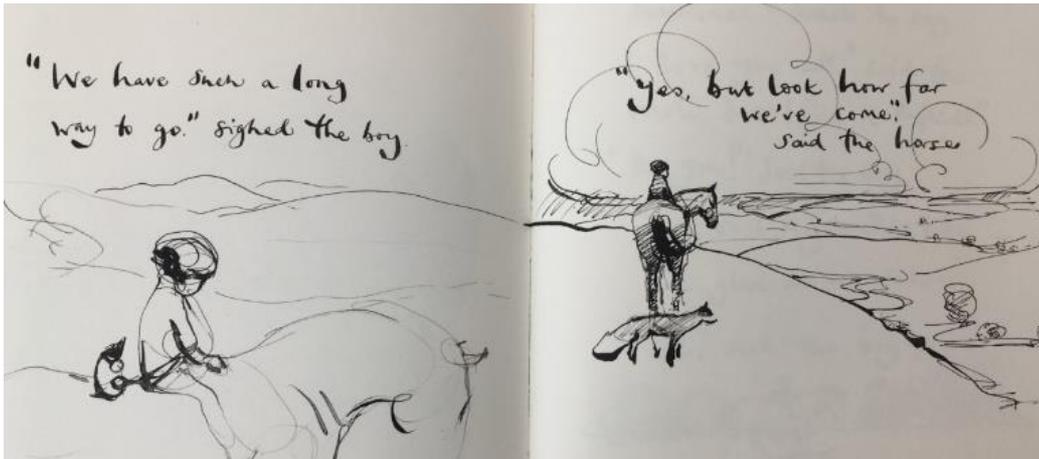




Our High Meadow Community 'Thought for the Week'

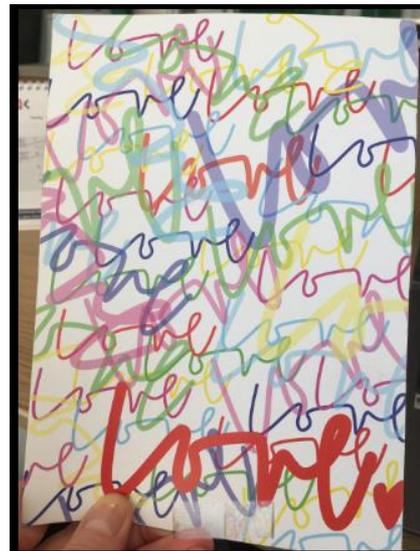
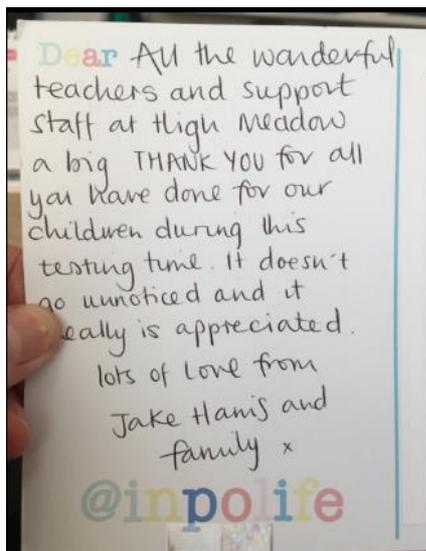


@ Charlie Mackesy

Welcome back...to the summer term!

Welcome 'back' everyone. We hope you enjoyed the beautiful weather over the Easter break and that all of you and your families are still safe and well.

Monday morning saw our highly dedicated team of teachers straight back on-line ready to share their love of learning with their classes once again. Thank you so much for all of the wonderful feedback we have been receiving verbally, by email and also through the post too. Yesterday we received this...





Our teachers are working so hard ensuring your children have access to a range of relevant and engaging activities so I'd like to use this newsletter to formally thank them for their passion and dedication. I know many schools where the teachers are not offering live, online lessons and children are just being directed to youtube videos to watch and other on-line learning. That may be okay for them but we recognise how important face-to-face relationships (albeit virtually) are to our children; connection is key in helping your children feel safe and loved. They need to explicitly see that we are thinking of them, all the time and virtual teaching with their class teacher, allows us to demonstrate this.

Our TA's and support staff are also working incredibly hard too. TA's are coming into school on a rota, caring for the children of families who are on the front line in the fight against Covid-19. When they are not here, they are recording stories for their classes or studying Open University education units to further deepen their own knowledge of teaching and learning.

As you know, our lovely office staff are always available at the end of an email. They too, are busy working remotely from home so please contact them on admin2569@welearn365.com if you have any questions at all.

Free School Meals

We have had a couple of queries from families about free school meals so I thought I would clarify. ALL children in reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to 'Universal Entitled Free School Meals'. These are not given based on income; every child is 'entitled' to them.

Some of our parents may be claiming benefits which means they can claim for 'Free School Meals'. The government are providing **just these families** with vouchers during the lockdown period. They are NOT providing vouchers to families who are entitled to 'Universal Entitled Free School Meals'. This is what the government say in their guidance....

What about infants that receive a free meal under universal infant free school meals?

It is right that schools concentrate their effort and resources on those who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals at this time. There is no requirement to continue to provide universal infant free school meals to pupils in Reception, Year 1, or Year 2 who are unable to attend school. Children in those year groups who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals will be supported.





All of our families who ARE entitled to these vouchers would have received an e-mail from Edenred to show them how to collect and redeem the vouchers, via an app. Please be aware that school do not give out vouchers.

In the current climate, more of our families may now be eligible for Free School Meals. Please follow the link below if you think you are...

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/education-learning/apply-free-school-meals>

Schools Reopening

Many of us saw the irresponsible reporting last weekend when some papers reported that schools would be re-opening in three weeks (Mid May) The Government were quick to respond, saying that schools would only open when it is safe to do so. We receive daily updates from the Department for Education, the Local Authority and school unions and will let you know as soon as we know when the likelihood of re-opening is going to happen, but it is not likely to be soon. As you are aware, all things need to be considered such as maintaining social distancing, PPE eqpt and virus testing. The children and staff safety will always be the number one driving factor in any decisions made.

New classroom build update

We received notification from the Local Authority, that due to the guidelines on social distancing, the appointed contractors for the new build would not be able to start the new build at Easter as planned. The Local Authority also informed us that the planning application meetings were also being postponed for the new Year 3 and 4 temporary classrooms. Please be assured that both myself and the governors are lobbying the local Authority and Dave Riley (councillor) to keep us updated on when the works will be allowed to start and when councillors will sit for planning meetings. I have emailed Dave Riley to ask why the meetings can't happen virtually but he replied that this may be considered but not as yet. We will keep you updated.

Online Safety for Children

A note from the local authority....

Schools should emphasise the importance of a safe online environment and encourage parents and carers to set age-appropriate parental controls on digital devices and use internet filters to block malicious websites.





These are usually free, but often need to be turned on. Use these resources to support parents and carers to keep their children safe online:

- [Thinkuknow](#) provides advice from the National Crime Agency (NCA) on staying safe online
- [Parent info](#) is a collaboration between Parentzone and the NCA providing support and guidance for parents from leading experts and organisations
- [Childnet](#) offers a toolkit to support parents and carers of children of any age to start discussions about their online life, to set boundaries around online behaviour and technology use, and to find out where to get more help and support
- [Internet matters](#) provides age-specific online safety checklists, guides on how to set parental controls on a range of devices, and a host of practical tips to help children get the most out of their digital world
- [London Grid for Learning](#) has support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online, including tips to keep primary aged children safe online
- [Net-aware](#) has support for parents and carers from the NSPCC, including a guide to social networks, apps and games
- [Let's Talk About It](#) has advice for parents and carers to keep children safe from online radicalisation
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) has tips, advice, guides and other resources to help keep children safe online, including parental controls offered by home internet providers and safety tools on social networks and other online services

Schools should consider signposting to the practical support that's available for reporting harmful or upsetting content as well as bullying and online abuse.

Harmful or upsetting content

Get support by:

- reporting harmful online content to the [UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- getting government advice and trusted resources from [Educate Against Hate](#) on safeguarding from radicalisation, building resilience to extremism, and promoting shared values



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Bullying or abuse online

You can:

- get advice on reporting online abuse from the National Crime Agency's [Child Exploitation and Online Protection command](#)
- get advice and support from [Anti-Bullying Alliance](#) for children who are being bullied

And finally...

The key message for all of us is that by continuing to strictly follow the guidelines below, we can reduce the spread of infection, serious illness and deaths:

- Stay at home, except for certain essential activities (shopping for necessities, such as food or medicine), one form of exercise per day, any medical need, or providing care to a vulnerable person, travel to and from work (but only when this is essential). DO NOT go out visiting people, this is not essential!
- If you are going out for essential purposes stay at least 2m away from anyone else. This requirement is even more critical for people with long term conditions, pregnant women and people over the age of 70.
- Support people who are extremely vulnerable to follow the new guidance to protect them from infection.
- Self-isolate with those in your household if you develop COVID-19 symptoms (however mild). It is critical that you also access medical help you need for other reasons also, when you need it - by phoning your GP, or 999 in an emergency.
- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water and clean surfaces that are regularly touched with detergents and chlorine-based disinfectants (1000 ppm chlorine).
- Check in on friends/neighbours/family who may be more vulnerable - stay in touch by phone or other digital media. Make sure they are able to keep in touch, and can access help if they need it.



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And again, a HUGE thank you to all of families who have **key workers** living with them. Every week, the Clapping for the Carers/NHS event moves me to tears and certainly does not go far enough in showing our appreciation for the work you are all doing. We thank you all from the bottom of our hearts and applaud the risks you take on a daily basis too; thank you, thank you, thank you!

Please stay home, please stay safe,

Kindest regards

Mrs Debby Hughes – Head teacher head2569@welearn365.com

Mr Jonathan Smith – Chair of Governors governors2569@welearn365.com



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