



LORENDEN

Newsletter

Friday 20th March 2020

We have certainly been through the strangest week that we can remember; a week where the possibility of online schooling grew into an immediate reality and the growing understanding that it may be a significant length of time before the school is physically back together. A week where teachers recognised that the profession they had been in was now about to operate in an entirely different way and a week in which children began

to become anxious about not seeing friends alongside an excitement of working online and seeing their teachers and friends via Google Meet.

I can not thank the staff enough for their determination to make the transition to 'Lorenden Online' smooth, the forthcoming education for your children as rigorous and meaningful as possible and the flexibility of supporting staff to keep the school open for children of key workers, and all whilst juggling their own families. I am not sure if many of you realised that Mrs Sheaves has been working from Holland since late on Tuesday (!), such has been the commitment she has shown from abroad after getting out to her family just in time before flights were cancelled. Thank you to Janet for stepping in on site since Tuesday afternoon in Mrs Sheaves' absence.

We really appreciate the kind comments we have received from you and recognise that this is an extremely difficult time for you all too. We will endeavour to help as much as we can and hope you will keep in touch over this extended period.

We will continue with a short newsletter each week of the term-times and please do send in photos of pupils doing their work, activities or other things so we can share in the newsletter too. We will also continue with online versions of assemblies on Mondays and Fridays during term time and anticipate next Friday being an online version of the Awards Assembly.

The rest of this newsletter is to share some of the lovely things your children have been doing and some out of school successes in our last week of teaching and learning onsite:

On Monday we enjoyed a Woodland Walk through the Trustlands in assembly time, with the focus on finding as many signs of Spring as we could. Year 4 were the clear winners identifying no less than 38 signs of Spring!



On Tuesday, Year 2 had a wonderful Egyptian day in school - canopic jars made from clay, mummifying dolls and much more.

On Wednesday we had the finals of the Poetry Competition, albeit in classrooms and including some entries online. Well done everyone who got through to these finals and to the winners. The winning house was Swallows.

POETRY SPEAKING WINNERS		
Reception	Reuben	Snowball
	Matilda	I am a giraffe by Matilda's daddy
Year 1	Violet	The Fridge by Bill Hoeneveld
Year 2	Isabelle	The Small Ghostie by Barbara Ireson
Year 3	Henry	Three Little Pigs by Roald Dahl
Year 4	Annabel	Cinderella by Roald Dahl
Year 5	Sophie	Seal Song by Robin Mellor
Year 6	Lottie	Television by Roald Dahl

On Thursday we had a lovely assembly from Rev Dan, who delivered the talk at our Carol Service. The assembly retold the story of the disciples afraid of the storm and Jesus walking across the water saying 'Do not be afraid'. A relevant story for all of us at this time and pitched so that pupils could understand it at their particular level.

Thursday afternoon saw Mrs Clarke, Mrs Harris and Mr Norton joining me in my office for members of Year 6 to audition for parts in the Summer Production - nothing particularly unusual about this annual event - however, this year it was lovely to see that we could give pupils working from home the same opportunity of live audition via Google Meet (although some of them looked very surprised to be able to see us all waving and talking to them!) Thank you to Mr Norton for facilitating the online opportunities.

Good bye to Mrs Fiona Johnson

We have said goodbye to Mrs Fiona Johnson this week and would like to thank her for all the time she has spent with her 1:1 pupils of all ages, encouraging them, giving them self-confidence and helping them develop skills and strategies for life-long learning. Mrs Debbie Swann will be starting back as soon as we are back in school. If any parents would like us to explore Debbie doing online 1:1 lessons before that point for SEN needs, then please ask us after the holidays.

We are delighted to have also appointed a phenomenal teacher for Mrs Stead's extended maternity cover from September. Mrs Sarah Cleur is a highly regarded practitioner by her current employers, previous employers and to staff who already know her at Lorenden. She was a superb candidate at interview and we are looking forward to you, and the pupils, meeting her before she starts.

Congratulations to Edward (Year 6) for his wonderful 3rd and 5th places in the Kent Schools Swimming competition last weekend (photo). Edward has shown a real dedication to his swimming for a long time and we are delighted to see his superb achievements against both state and independent schools across the whole of Kent.



Well done also to Arthur (Year 5) whose team won the U10 Kent County Hockey Championships at Polo Farm last weekend, to Dylan (Year 5) whose team won the Development Tournament and to Isla (Year 4) for her group of four medals received for a range of swimming strokes at Herne Bay Swimming Club.



Thank you to Annabel for playing 'Morning Has Broken' so beautifully on the guitar in assembly this morning and also for reading her 'Wash Your Hands' poem (which could be sung to Old MacDonald had a Farm) as the winning entry for this week's challenge. Next week's challenge is anticipated be set on Monday during assembly online.

And finally, well done to Swallows for winning both housepoints and Gems this term - we have said we will wait until we are back at school for a prize to be awarded for winning, but have asked pupils for ideas of what they think the prize should be....

We look forward to seeing you and your children online for the next while and will welcome you back onsite as soon as we can.

Best wishes

Mrs Uttley
