

Remote Message from the Principal 5

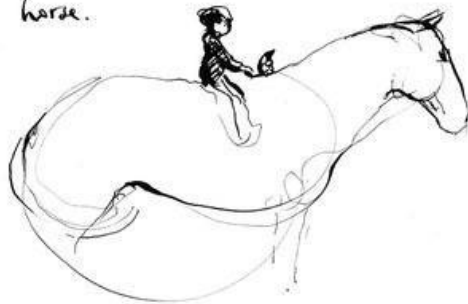
7th May 2020

Dear all,

As we approach the end of a shorter working week for many – although I appreciate many of you will still be working tomorrow – I hope everyone is well. I want to address straight away the continued conjecture and rumour about schools reopening – we still know nothing more. I am loathed to believe what I read in the media, as it changes daily, and all we can do is wait for the moment. I know this must be increasingly difficult for you and your children; it certainly is for us.

I have sensed this week from staff and pupils who I have been in touch with, that this has actually been a difficult week for many. I really don't want these messages to be negative, but I also think it is important that we acknowledge these bumps in the road, and to also reassure you that – if you have had a difficult week – you are certainly not alone. I have heard many of you comment on the increasing difficulty in keeping pupils motivated, how tiredness has kicked in and how it is proving harder and harder not knowing a timescale. In terms of the tiredness, I reminded staff this week that we do often feel tired at this point in the term anyway, and some of it will be that. But also, we have all – and I unquestionably include parents and pupils in this – fundamentally built a brand new school in six weeks, and lived it. That is bound to have an impact on anyone's energy levels, and we should forgive ourselves for that. So **today I actually challenge you to look backwards instead of forwards (in terms of our lockdown experience that is). Focus on what you have achieved over the last few weeks, even if it is has felt like just surviving at times.** I am returning to my lovely book to sum this up today:

" We have a long way
to go " sighed the boy.
" Yes but look how far
we have come " said the
horse.



There have been some huge positives over the last week, and in amongst the continued monitoring of our new remote school, I have had many meetings that were really refreshing, as they weren't at all about the current situation, but more about **how we will continue to take the School forward** as soon as we return. Myself and Mr Hanna have been having exciting discussions about teaching and learning and curriculum in the all through school; plans are afoot for our current Year 10s and Year 12s to ensure they have a wonderful final year with us;

next year's timetable is being constructed; plans are in process to further strengthen our praise system across the whole school.

You will perhaps be relieved to know there is no separate section today with key information - I am very aware of how much information has come out to you recently, especially for Year 11 parents with Sunday's extra email. Unfortunately, this is part and parcel of situations like this, but I hope that pulling everything together each week – whilst making for a long read – helps you to find everything you need. For all Year 6 parents, and those of you with children joining CFS in September, in either Year 7 or Reception, I will be in touch over the next couple of weeks with our plans for transition. Do look out for this communication. As Year R-10 and Year 12 parents you have also received a pupil report this week, and it is important to give you time to digest information about the most important subject of them all – your child. So nothing else new this week from me.

I do hope pupils enjoy my video message this week – the link is back in the main email. Here are also some further resources on [Online Safety](#). I also hope you have seen this wonderful article about CFS in the [Bognor Post](#).

All that leaves me to say, is to have a wonderful bank holiday weekend. I sincerely hope you all manage to get some downtime, enjoy the sunshine and get to acknowledge VE Day in some way. I am going to attempt to make an afternoon tea, will be watching Churchill's speech and engaging in a moment of reflection, and who knows, maybe some Vera Lynn songs will be played! Just a reminder that, as tomorrow is Bank Holiday, no formal remote learning will be set, although teachers may well have put some optional tasks onto SMHW. We have shared some nature inspired activities on SMHW with all primary pupils. I am also extremely pleased to say that Miss Hicks, one of our Art and DT teachers, has very kindly created a whole host of VE Day celebration activities for primary and secondary pupils – and you as parents! You can find the link back in the main email. I hope you agree when I say it is a wonderful resource – huge thanks to Miss Hicks for bringing all of this together. And please do send through any photos of your VE Day celebrations, like the one below from our Childcare provision.



With very best wishes,

Mrs Louise New

Principal