



## Newsletter 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have reached the end of another half-term, which has been rather an interesting and unusual one, to say the least!

Firstly, a huge thank you to all of you for making the last half-term work as well as possible. We do know and understand what sacrifices have been made and the challenges of trying to manage work and other commitments, balanced with trying to support your child with his/her learning. These have been, and continue to be, challenging times for us all, but your willingness to work with all of us in school to get the best possible outcomes for the children has been tremendous and much appreciated.

If the plans to reopen schools go ahead from 1st June, our current plan will go into action and we will confirm the final details with those families with children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. We expect the government to make an announcement on the reopening on 28th May. If there are changes to the plans we have set in place, please be assured that we will contact you as soon as possible to confirm alternative arrangements.

### Coronavirus Drive-through testing in Hertfordshire has expanded

Our NHS partners have provided us with this information about how to access Hertfordshire's pop-up COVID-19 drive-through test centres. They are now open on Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Thursday.

The pop-up sites in Watford (Thursdays) Hertford (Saturdays), Watford (Sundays) and Stevenage (Mondays) have been commissioned by local NHS organisations and are supported by the military. Testing at each site will open at 10am and run until 4pm.

Please note because the Household Waste Recycling Centre in Stevenage has now reopened adjacent to the test centre, please ensure you follow the signs to the test centre as there will be queues for the Recycling site.

Coronavirus tests are now available to everyone over the age of 5 and can be carried out on the same day in the majority of cases.

## Therapeutic story to support the children

The therapeutic story below will support those children who are returning to school in the next couple of weeks to help ease their anxieties that they may have about starting back under social distancing.

### Benjamin Bear and The Long Winter

Once upon a time there lived a little baby bear called Benjamin. Benjamin lived in a big green forest with lots of other big and little bears. His home was a very snuggly, cosy den where he lived with some of his favourite big bears. He felt very lucky.

One day, the birds came flying down to bring the news that there was going to be a very long, cold winter. All the animals in the forest started preparing. They needed to get lots of food and supplies to last them through the long, cold winter. It was a strange time, with everyone rushing around gathering food and looking worried, but then, as the snow started to fall, the forest became quiet. Everyone was ready for hibernation.



Benjamin's den was full of yummy food, snuggly blankets and his very favourite bears. He had everything he needed, he couldn't wait for hibernation to begin! Benjamin and the big bears closed the door to their den, shutting out the icy wind, and snuggled down into their beds. They were safe and dry and warm and very, very happy. Benjamin LOVED hibernating. He loved having lots of extra bear hugs and time together. Every day he woke up feeling smiley, he wanted to hibernate forever.

But one day, he started to hear birds singing outside, and he saw light shining through the door to the den. "Look! Spring is here!" said the big bears, excitedly, stretching and yawning. "Time to get up and go outside!" but Benjamin didn't get up. He didn't *want* to go outside. He stayed right where he was, frowning.

"Come on Benjamin. It's time to leave our den. The sun is shining! It's warm again! Now we can go outside and play and hunt and explore," said the big bears.

"But I don't want to. It's warm and cosy in here. I love it in here. I'm not going outside ever again." He said.

The big bears sat down with Benjamin and gave him a hug. They explained how much they loved being inside with him too. Of course Benjamin wanted to stay in the den forever, it was very special to all be together feeling safe and happy. Benjamin nodded, "yes! Exactly!" he thought. They understood.

"We do understand," they said, "but you know, little bears can't stay inside forever. They need to learn how to fish and climb trees and play with their friends!"

Benjamin wasn't so sure. He hadn't seen his friends all winter and that wasn't so bad. Climbing trees was fun, but what if he fell down and hurt himself? And learning to fish was really hard, what if he couldn't do it and the other bears laughed at him? No. He decided it was too risky, and he should definitely stay inside the den forever and ever.

"It's OK to be scared you know," said the big bears. "Going outside after such a long time will probably feel a bit strange, but that's OK. Lots of little bears will be feeling the same way too. And there will be plenty of big bears around to catch you if you fall, AND to help you learn to fish. It will be fun, and we will keep you safe!" they told him.

But Benjamin didn't FEEL safe outside. He knew what safe felt like. Safe felt like days inside with his favourite big bears, no one coming in and no one going out. Safe felt like cuddles and games and laughing together. Safe felt like not having to try new scary things or go to new scary places. Safe felt warm and smiley and calm. Safe felt good.

The big bears smiled. They were glad that Benjamin bear knew what safe felt like. "Do you want to know a secret about feeling safe?" They asked Benjamin. He nodded.

"Safe is a feeling you keep in your heart. Being in the den has made that feeling grow so big it takes up your whole heart now, but that just means you've got lots you can take with you when you go outside. Outside might not feel so safe sometimes, and so the safe feeling might get smaller or even go away... But you can always find a big bear you trust very much and tell them if that happens. They can help you find it again, until it's time to come back home and fill your heart right back up. And coming back to our cosy den will feel even better when you've been outside all day,"

And the big bears were right.

Benjamin was a nervous bear, but he was a brave bear too, and so he went outside again. At first, it didn't take much for that safe feeling in his heart to shrink. Sometimes it would disappear completely! But he always remembered to find a bear he trusted who helped him get it back again. Sometimes, if Benjamin was feeling extra nervous, he would take something special from his den to keep in his pocket and remind him of his safe feeling. As the days went by, Benjamin started to enjoy going outside, climbing trees, catching fish and playing with his friends. The big bears were so proud of him and he was proud of himself too!

Best of all, every single day, when he was done with climbing and fishing and playing, he would go back to his cosy den, snuggle up with the big bears and tell them all about his outside adventures. And that safe feeling in his heart? It grew, and grew, and grew.



### School Reopening

At the beginning of the school closure we created a new web page called 'Coronavirus Updates' on the home page of the school website to keep in touch with you all. We posted stories, challenges, information and support resources for you to look at. Since the announcement regarding the possible reopening of schools on 1<sup>st</sup> June, we have created another new web page called 'School Reopening Information' where we are posting information more relevant to the reopening such as letters and support resources. Photos of all the different class bubbles can be seen under the 'Class' tab. Please look at the website regularly as it is being updated weekly with current information for you.



## Home Learning Gallery

Please email admin with photos of the amazing work both you and your child are proud of so that we can include them in our weekly gallery.



Sadie (Year 5) and Blake (Year 3)



Edward S (Rec)



Aimee G (Year 4)



Ewen (Year 2) and Isla (Year 5)



Jake (Year 3)



Mila (Year 1)



Reuben (Year 5)



Poppy (Year 5)



Gracie (Nursery)



Edward S (Rec)



For the last couple of weeks, we have posted several links for you to watch one of our pupils, William Welch (Year 3) play the guitar and sing. Last week we posted the link of William singing 'You Can Wait (But You Better Pray)' which is a song written about the coronavirus lockdown. Since then, William and his family have decided to try and raise money for the NHS and so far William has raised a staggering £560. This is what William said about his fundraising venture:

*NHS staff and volunteers are doing amazing work right now in caring for COVID-19 patients and I want to do my bit to help. I didn't think I could raise any money but then I saw what Captain Tom was doing and how determined he was to raise money for the NHS. I would like to do the same, even if its just a small amount. Instead of walking round my garden, I have written (with my Dad) and performed my own song about Corona Virus and Lockdown. It's a sad song but we think it's very beautiful. If even a few people like it we would like to do another one as well and raise as much money as we can for the NHS. We hope it captures the mood and that you enjoy it. If so please donate £1 or whatever you can to support the NHS.*

If you would like to support this fantastic cause, then you can donate through the Just Giving Page. As a school, we are supporting William's fundraising and are happy to share the Just Giving link with you.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/williamwelchnhs>

To listen to his song 'You Can Wait, But You Better Pray' click on this link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8THyr4GLCH4&feature=youtu.be>

### MYSTERY READERS

We hope you had fun last week trying to work out our mystery readers. We know that some of these were very difficult! Congratulations to all who sent in their entry you all did extremely well. Special mention must go to Agathe and her family for getting 100% - well done. To put some of you out of your agony please find the answers below!

	Name of member of staff
1	Mrs Hawkins
2	Mrs Bunyan
3	Mrs Shortland
4	Mrs Clarke
5	Mrs Wood
6	Mrs Stevens
7	Mrs Gill
8	Mrs Bunce
9	Mrs Dell
10	Mrs Allman
11	Mrs Butler
12	Miss Oakley
13	Miss Chatman
14	Mrs Bell
15	Mrs Lee
16	Ms Ramirez
17	Mrs Goodman
18	Miss Bonds
19	Mrs Green
20	Miss Knott
21	Mr Ring
22	Mrs Clark
23	Mr Starkey
24	Mrs Gugerly
25	Mrs Etienne
26	Miss Shadbolt
27	Mrs Dowie
28	Mrs Duston
29	Mrs Roberts