Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this finds you and your families happy and healthy as we continue to find our way in these unusual times.

I am sure that my household is no different to many of yours at the moment - sometimes ticking along quite nicely while others feeling like the wheels have fallen off completely. Both my wife and I are trying our best to fulfil our professional roles in a household that includes beautifully active and emotional 1.5 and 3.5 year olds. Consequently, and I never thought I would be saying this, that short of the bathroom, I have been a ‘Headteaching’ from every room in my house.

It is the reality of our current circumstance that we are having our patience and flexibility tested. Our usual functional norms have been thrown out of the window and replaced by the trial and error to try and find the best way to maintain family life, ensuring loved ones are being just that, loved, while also meeting other demands expected of us. We all have to be in a place of acceptance that we can only do what we can do and understand that not everything will be done or if it has, done in way or level we would normally expect – we can only do our best!

Please remember this sentiment in respect to supporting your child with their Learning at Home – this is a challenging and difficult situation and they and you can only do your best. Some days the best maybe better than others but that is ok and we should all be proud of any achievement, no matter how small.

This newsletter serves as a testament to the wonderful efforts being made by children and their parents throughout the school community. I would like to thank you for your ongoing support and hope that the continued refinements to our Learning at Home offer are making it easier for you.

Please follow or cut and paste this link into your browser to access another enhancement, that all being well, will open the door to further opportunities to maintain the connection between your child and school:

https://reigatepriory-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/websitevideo_reigate-priory_surrey_sch_uk/EQ3AJMx0bdddGgAyJhhwN-5wBysudSJTUYKlxiqi3l3Xpw?e=IZqD5t

Password RP01052020

I better go as the Tiger is Coming to Tea and I was chosen to be the Tiger.

Regards

Mr Moses
ONLINE SAFETY REMINDER

The internet and the many opportunities it provides, whether it is keeping us connected or helping with learning, is proving an especially helpful tool at the moment. However, it can have its drawbacks and if not used or monitored in an appropriate way can make children vulnerable to online difficulties and dangers.

The Department of Education continues to provide school's with additional guidance to support children and their families to reduce the likelihood of any undue issues or harm occurring.

The Online Safety page of the school website continues to be updated accordingly and we would encourage all parents and carers to visit it and the links it contains to ensure best practice and approaches are being adopted at home.

Online Safety at reigate-priory.co.uk

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Special Feature

When our doors closed on Friday 20 March to all but just a few, an eerie hush fell over our old and beautiful building. All was quiet apart from the sounds of Steve, our Site Manager, and his family, who have lived in Reigate Priory for the last 14 years.

Whilst most of us continue our work and conduct almost all activities from our homes, what has Steve been doing in school?

Steve’s day begins at 7.00am when he unlocks the building, checks that the lighting and heating are working and that everything is as it should be. Without all of us on site Steve’s care of us and the school continues and he has been able to complete some tasks he has wanted to do for ages. When the children return they will notice the newly polished wooden floors and staircase in the Holbein Hall, the sparkling clean grand fireplace and the smell of fresh paint around the building. Steve has also overseen the dismantling of the extensive scaffold that has been attached to our school for so many years—definitely something to celebrate!

As leader of the Eco Warriors Club, Steve has completed the creation of an allotment which has now been planted with runner beans, tomatoes, potatoes, carrots and beetroot with cucumber seedlings being nurtured ready for planting out in summer. He is looking forward to the Eco Warriors’ return to help him look after it all!

Steve and his family love living in Reigate Priory and sometimes, when it’s quiet, they sit and look at the murals above the staircase and discover something new each time. He highlights that it is wonderful to live in a building with so much history but it is quiet and lonely without the children, he misses their happiness and noise, saying “the building needs the children to make it alive”.

Some of the children currently at school conducted a quick fire interview with Steve. These are their questions and his responses...

What is your favourite food? Steak and chips.

What is your favourite sport? Hurling as my family play.

If you could have any superpower what would it be? I would love to be able to fly.

What is your favourite pastime? I like being in the library because it is so quiet.

What is the most disgusting thing that you’ve had to do? Clean the toilet when people put stuff in it. Yuk!

Would you rather be upside-down for the rest of your life or have bouncy hoppers as your legs? I would rather have bouncy hoppers as legs.

What is the strangest thing about school at this time? How quiet it is.

Are you missing all the children? Yes, lots.

We look forward to being back with you at school soon Steve!

Zoe (5HM), Amber (4FY), Sophie (4AP), Florence (5JC), Shree (6ST) and Jhanvi (3PF) supported by Mrs Glasgow
Learning at School

Our favourite things during the Easter Holidays were, sketching a rabbit with Mrs Brown and Miss Trott, making up the game Dodge It, making papier-mâché (Gerald the Octopus), making a poster for the NHS, drawing Easter-themed Zen Tangles and playing tennis with Mr Lombardi. It was a GREAT two week’s and we did so many fun things! I hope we do this again, it was a great way to make new friends!

Amber (4FY) and Zoe (5HM)

EASTER HOLIDAY CLUB

The end of the Spring term brought with it the beginning of Reigate Priory’s inaugural (and potentially only) Easter Holiday Club for those children who are currently in school. A huge number of staff volunteered to lead a day, providing creative and fun activities for the children in attendance. The activities included: a mini sports day, making papier-mâché animals, going camping (on the school field), baking bread, hot cross buns and making pink wafer pencils, creating perspective photography and many more! Overall it was a fantastic two weeks and the staff and children deserve great credit for their enthusiasm and creativity.

‘My day at holiday club was one I’ll never forget and I’m thankful I had the opportunity to spend time with and get to know everyone that day. We had so much fun, especially when making a mess in the kitchen and it was truly rewarding to see the children so happy and engaged. I haven’t laughed like that in a long time!’

Miss Pelekani
Learning at Home—Year 3

Easter Art based on Fabergé Eggs design by Connie (3JE)

Top Trump cards by Grace (3ST)

Top Trump cards by George (3JS)

Writing by Lily (3JS)

Parts of a Cactus Dahlia by Ava (3PF)

Parts of a Sunflower by Hunter (3JE)

Top Trump cards by Henry (3VS)

Top Trump cards by Henry (3PF)

Poem by Matilda (3JE)
The Jumping Jaguar by Harry (4PE) was shortlisted for the Live Canon Children's Poetry competition and will be published in the 2020 children's anthology.

Mrs Gren by Daniel (4AP)

Mrs Gren by Sienna (4FY)

Mrs Gren’s Tree of Life by Cecily (4AP)

Plants are a Man’s Best Friend by Winnifred (4IB)

Easter Art by Mia Rose (4LW)

Features of Living Things by Elysia (4PE)

Mrs Gren by Harry (4IB)
The Great Barrier Reef by Olivia (5EP)

The Paricutin Volcano by Will (5JC)

The Grand Canyon by Taliah (5EA)

Easter Story Map by Leah (5HM)

Battling the Snow in Siberia by Isabella (5EP)

The Great Barrier Reef by Alexander (5EA)

The Great Barrier Reef by Scarlett (5JL)

The Northern Lights by Frankie 5HM

The Great Barrier Reef by Louis 5HM
**Writing Task by Layla (6FC)**

*Catch a Lot*

A boy was sitting on the sand and looking out to sea. He noticed a large wooden boat floating slowly past. He ran to his father and asked if he could have a go. His father agreed and gave him a rope to throw. The boy threw the rope and caught the boat. He was overjoyed and ran home to tell his mother and sister. They were all very happy and decided to go on a picnic on the beach.

**Story Task by Rosie (6LP)**

*How Prince Siddhartha Gautama became the Buddha*

Prince Siddhartha Gautama was born into a wealthy family. He was comfortable and did not experience the sufferings of the world. One day, he saw a dying man and was shocked to see him suffering. He realized that everyone would eventually die and he decided to leave his luxurious life and search for enlightenment. He began his journey and eventually became Buddha.

**Story Task by Lana (6DW)**

*Mayan God of Death*

A Mayan god is sitting on a throne and looking out over the kingdom. He is surrounded by his many followers. He is the god of death and is responsible for taking the souls of the deceased to the afterlife.

**Writing Task by Jamie (6FC)**

*Dialogue writing of “Catch A Lot”*

Jack was fed up whilst rowing his father’s boat across the calm and quiet sea. His dad, John, was standing at the very tip of the boat looking out across the ocean in search of an enormous whale. John looked over his shoulder and noticed his son was unhappy. “Come on, Son! I thought this would be fun!”

John suddenly saw a cloudy grey mist surrounding their small wooden rowing boat, a distinctive noise of a whale call pierced the air and John leapt from where he was standing to the other side of the boat, propelling Jack out of the way.

“We have ourselves a whale, Son!” John said enthusiastically, watching the whale powerfully blow water into the air.

“For goodness sake, Dad,” Jack replied, rolling his eyes. “It’s just another Whale”

ignoring his son’s feelings, he grabbed another spear and tossed it to Jack.

“Do I have to, Dad? Why can’t you do it?”

“Why can’t you be more like me, Jack?” John answered angrily, lifting Jack off his feet with his strong grip around his shoulders and putting him down again. “Don’t bother, I’ll do it myself!”

Jack stared at his Dad with disbelief, slowly picking up the oars and starting to row into the ever-growing mist which had started to consume the boat.

**Poem by Lana (6OM)**

*Poem by Lana (6OM)*

The wind whispers stories to me,
As I sit quietly by the sea.
I hear the waves gently crashing,
And the seagulls flying high.

I close my eyes and listen,
To the sounds of nature's symphony.
It's a peaceful place,
Where I can forget about the worries of the day.

I breathe in the fresh sea air,
And let it fill me up inside.
I feel so peaceful,
As I let the world slip away.

*God & Death*

When the gods were created,
They gave each one its duty.
One was the God of Death,
Who took the souls to the afterlife.

He was feared by all,
For his power was immense.
But he was also respected,
For his role in the cycle of life.

He watched over the dead,
Guiding them to their final rest.
And when his time was done,
He was replaced by another.

*Catch A lot*

It was late at night,
When the moon was high.
Jack was out rowing,
To catch a lot.

He saw a large fish,
Swimming by his side.
He quickly cast his line,
And caught it with ease.

He pulled it out of the water,
And admired his catch.
He knew he had done well,
And was proud of his skills.

He returned home,
Where his family waited.
They were happy to see him,
And praised his fishing.

*Come on! What are you going to do!* Dus.

Dus.
Our Activities at Home

Haydon (5EA) has decided to run 100km and raise money for our wonderful NHS staff at East Surrey hospital. He has measured out a 25m strip and runs 200 laps each day, running 5km most days.

He has worked out that if he continues to run 5km a day (with Sundays off) he will reach his target on 14 May. At time of going to press he has raised the amazing sum of £660 on his Just Giving page... we will update you on his progress again in June!

James (6DW) created an amplifier from a cardboard box. It worked when the iPad was inserted.

Harry (5HM) has built a Viking Bug Hotel.
Alex (4PE) and his sister Mia entered a chocolate Easter egg making competition over the holiday and won first prize for their baby chicks.

Harriet (3PF) has learned to play patience.

Eloise (3PF) is growing Sunflowers.

Max (6FC) has helped to build a 3D printer and is going to be printing PPE for key workers.

Ava (3PF) in Crow Pose.

Jonty (4AP) created stripy cheese toast served with an egg and tomato salad.