



Marsh Hill Weekly Newsletter

Telephone: 0121 464 2920 Website: www.marshill.bham.sch.uk
e-mail: enquiry@marshill.bham.sch.uk

Friday 1st May, 2020

Dear Parents/Carers and Governors,

I hope you all are safe and well. It seems only a few days ago when we were enjoying the April sunshine, we are hoping that the sun makes a return within the next few days. As it is the 1st of the month we are looking at the value of **Appreciation** and we would appreciate if you ask your child to think carefully and discuss what this means to them.

Value for **MAY** is



Planning Ahead



Although we are all unsure of what lies ahead, when the government will allow schools to return and how this will work with continued social distancing, we have been trying to make provisional plans for the rest of this term. The dates below may help key worker parents, in particular, with their own domestic arrangements, but we please ask that you understand these may change if the general principles of the lockdown change from how they are currently:

Friday 8th May: Bank holiday – school will be closed to all

Monday 25th—29th May: school will be closed to all for Half Term

Monday 20th July: Teacher Education Day will go ahead, so school will be closed to all.

If we are instructed that schools can return to being open for all pupils during this term, we are expecting that social distancing will still be required. This means that we will not be able to have all of our children in at one time.

We are beginning to think about how we might manage this, in terms of different year groups on different days or half classes in for half days. This will clearly be very difficult for schools to manage, and also for parents to manage if they are returning to work. We hope you now know that we will do everything we can to make the situation as sensible, manageable and fair as we can. Please do bear with us. In the meantime, we carry on as we are, keeping our children safe, well and happy.



Captain Tom: how one person made a difference

Captain Tom is a former British Army officer who served in the Second World War. On April 7, he set out to raise £1,000 for NHS charities, by walking one hundred lengths of his garden with his zimmer frame by 30 April to coincide with his 100th birthday. Within a week he raised £1,000,000. His total now exceeds £30,000,000. Yesterday (30th April) and on his birthday, Captain Tom was promoted to **Honorary Colonel** by the **Queen** for his amazing contribution to the NHS.



Thank you to all the families who on Tuesday honoured our NHS who have been lost during this crisis. As usual each Thursday evening, we continue to applause to show all nurses, doctors, GPs, carers and Teachers your appreciation for their ongoing hard work and fight against the virus.

"I say thank you very much indeed. I appreciate it because the object for which we're donating is so important and so necessary...I think you're all so kind and thoughtful contributing to this cause"
Captain Tom Moore



Paintings from Key Worker children in school

NEXT WEEK



Victory in Europe Day

On Friday 8th May, the whole country will commemorate the Bank Holiday for VE (Victory in Europe) Day. This day is a reminder of the day when fighting in Europe ended during World War II, in 1945.

How will you be commemorating the event? Will you be decorating your house (or yourself!) in red, white and blue? Hosting a tea party? Perhaps you could research the war and present your findings creatively as a poster, picture or play?

However you choose to commemorate the event, we would love to see pictures of your ideas. Any photographs submitted to your child's class email (eg. 2A@marshill.bham.sch.uk) by 4pm on Monday 11th May have the opportunity to be included in a video which will be shared online by Friday 15th May. Please clearly state if you do not want your pictures to be included.

Home Learning and Communication

We continue to stay in touch with all families to support the learning taking place at home. The teachers will continue to provide weekly tasks/lessons and will continue to make phone calls home. Please continue to stay in touch through email, share what you've been up to at home and let us know how we can help further. New work will be set on the website on Monday 4th May on the **Pupil Page** on a weekly basis. If you have any questions about work, please email your class teacher e.g. 1C@marshill.bham.sch.uk, 4M@marshill.bham.sch.uk etc. Any other queries please contact school by phone or email.

In addition to home learning it is extremely important that children have downtime at home during this closure.

Spending time together as a family is really important: baking, sharing stories, playing board games, doing puzzles, gardening, practising hobbies and exercise are all really vital to staying safe and well. We do not expect pupils to be doing their usual full day of learning at this unusual time.

Wellbeing is extremely important and it is impossible to structure 'normal' days.

We acknowledge and understand that many parents are juggling working from home with caring for their children so please be kind to yourself and have realistic expectations of what will get done.



Ramadan

Ramadan 2020 began last week on April 23. The Islamic calendar is based around the lunar cycle, the Holy month of Ramadan rotates by approximately ten days each year.

The month is confirmed with the sighting of the new moon. During the month of Ramadan, Muslims won't eat or drink between dawn and sunset. This is called fasting. Fasting is important during Ramadan as it allows Muslims to devote themselves to their faith and come

closer to Allah, or God..

This year's Ramadan will be a bit different, as the coronavirus outbreak means that many people will not be able to visit friends and family, or their local mosque. This is because of worldwide 'lockdowns' which are helping to stop the spread of the disease.

The Muslim Council of Britain have also published guidance for communities to make the most out of the season while the UK remains in lockdown click on this link to view it: <https://mcb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/MCB-Ramadan-2020-Guidance.pdf>



Paintings from Key Worker children in school

Free School Meal Pupils

From 24th April, eligible pupils will be issued with an eCode equivalent of £15 per week per child from the government emailed to you. We understand that due to high demand, the waiting time to access the website can be as long as 90 minutes. However, if you log onto the site after before 8am and after 6pm, the wait is significantly shorter.

Safeguarding

In the event of a **Safeguarding** issue arising please phone: **07538 455727**.

However if you consider this to be urgent please contact: Birmingham Children's Advice and Support service on **0121 303 1888**



Nintendo Switch users are at risk of potential fraud and hacking. Please ensure you have switched on 2 factor authentication and change your password.

Remember longer is stronger where passwords are concerned!

In order to provide you with the most current Online Safety information whilst your children are at home please download the Safer Schools App from either the App Store or Google Store (Free) Your Parent code to open the app is: **7440**.

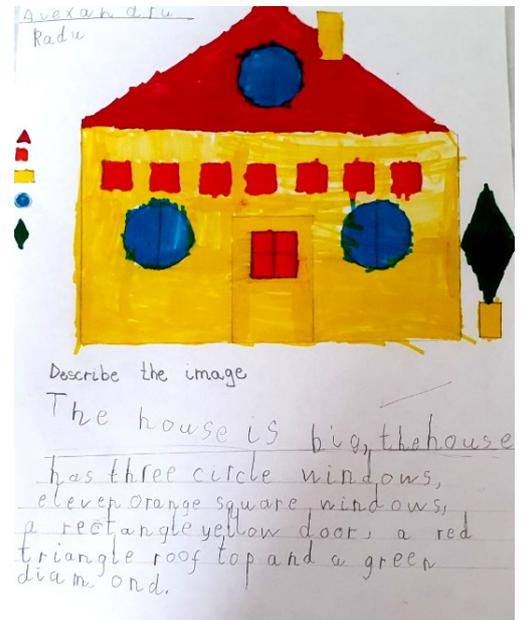
The app will also provide you with the latest news information from our website if you are unable to access this via a laptop or computer.

Twitter & Email

It is wonderful seeing the work you all have been sharing using the class email or Twitter. We thank you for using this method to keep in touch. Below is just a sample of some of the activities that have been sent to us.



Write about your fairy tale wand



Early Years Task:

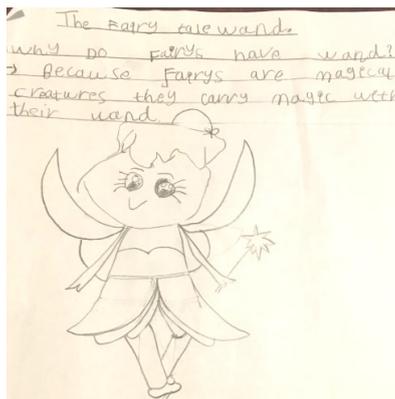
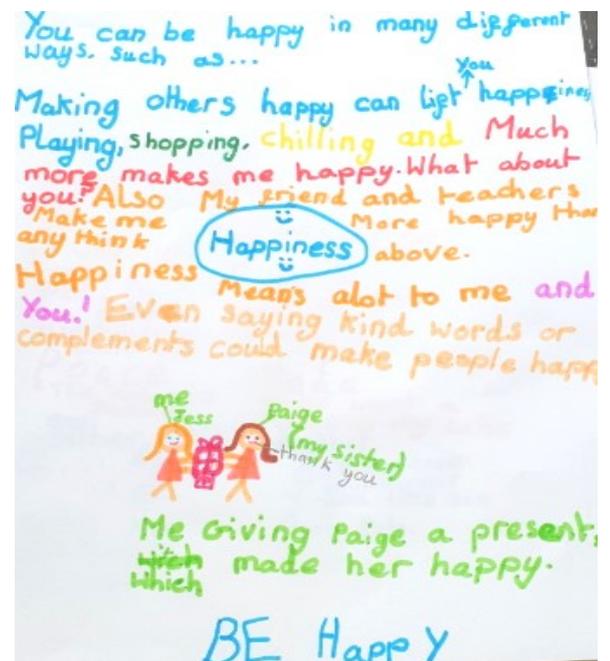
Design your own fairy tale wand.

Use a wooden spoon, lollipop stick or you can draw and decorate one.



Values Task:

Design a poster to suggest things which people could do to stay happy



Finally... during challenging times, inspirational words and poems can help. Recently, the Queen addressed the nation with some wise words including: *We should take comfort that while we may have more still to endure, better days will return; we will be with our friends again; we will be with our families again; we will meet again.* Queen Elizabeth II

Kind Regards

Mrs. Marlene Douglas and the Marsh Hill Team

Head Teacher

