

## HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Well, we always knew that the first year of opening a brand new school would be challenging but I don't think, even in our wildest dreams, we could have predicted the events that we are currently living through! Thank for all of the kind words of support that we have received from so many parents - it really does lift the spirits.

We have all had to radically adapt how we live and work and we are trying to use this period of closure to experiment with different distance learning techniques in order to make the best out of a bad situation. Hopefully this will help enhance our teaching practice in the future.

All the staff are, of course, desperately missing the children - I think we have all been reminded of how important those daily face-to-face interactions are - so it has been fantastic to receive so many photos and stories of how they are getting on at home. It is at times like these that the strong partnership between home and school is even more important than ever. We will get through this by working together! Please do let us know if there is anything we can do to support either you or your children. Despite our doors being closed, we are still available to help.

We will keep you updated on the latest developments as and when we have them. We look forward to seeing you all soon. In the meantime, please do keep yourselves and your families safe.

Ms Wood



## IN-SCHOOL PROVISION

Although school has been closed for the majority of students since the 23rd March, we have remained open for the children of key workers. It has been a privilege to help their parents to do their jobs at this critical time. As you can imagine, the school day has looked a little bit different with only between 5 and 10 students in each day! We have, of course, been doing the same distance learning activities as the rest of the students but there has been plenty of time for other socially distanced fun activities too. For example, we baked cupcakes for Lucy's birthday, Mr MacNaughton has started a running club with Brandon, Benedict (and a reluctant Daniel), and everyone has a new-found passion for quick cricket since Mr Higgs explained the rules. A highlight has definitely been the nature walk with Ms Walton and Mr Robinson (pictures below).

We have been lovely to get to know the children better and we have been so impressed by their resilience and good spirits.



## ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Reports will be sent home during the week of the 20th April. We apologise for the delay with these - we have been awaiting some last assessments from students who were self-isolating during assessment week.

## SHAPE OF THE DAY

A reminder that, when we return to school, the timings will be slightly different. Lessons will be 55 minutes long (rather than 60) to allow for additional social time. School will finish five minutes earlier at 4.35pm.

## SWAN BOOK CLUB

Swan book club launched during the Easter holiday, organised by Ms Hinze. We are starting with *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett - the audiobook is available for free [here](#). The book is just over 8 hours long.

Everyone is invited to join, and it could be a lovely thing to listen with the whole family. The group will be meeting virtually on the afternoon of Wednesday 29th April to discuss their thoughts about the book. It will be a brilliant way to help children connect with school-mates as well as promoting a love of reading.

## PARENT TIPS

Home learning is a new way of working for all of us. Below are some tips shared by parents..

1. Create a timetable - this helps to provide a structure to the day.
2. Start the day with some physical activity - it really helps to get in the right frame of mind. Perhaps Joe Wicks or a walk?
3. Make time for activities away from the computer - children will be having a lot of screen time with their school work.
4. Make time for mental well-being - don't worry if you don't finish all the work set. Family time is valuable.
5. Reach out to others - everyone is finding this a challenge; don't be afraid to ask for help.

## SWAN STUDENTS LEARNING FROM HOME

Thank you so much for all the photos you have sent in. It has been brilliant to see how our students have adapted to learning at home and lovely to see a balance between work and play. It certainly looks like their pets are helping to get them through!

