



Dear parents,

Another week in lockdown has gone by, and many of you are finding fun and interesting ways to keep busy and entertained at home. We do enjoy seeing your photos of what you have been up to - keep them coming! For example, one of the Science activities given to children in Y2 was to create a mini pond in the garden to encourage wildlife to take up residence and make it their habitat. You will have seen some examples of these ponds on our Facebook page - they are wonderful! While we are in lockdown, nature carries on as normal, and taking the opportunity to go outside in your garden or for a local walk and see spring unfolding does wonders for mental health and wellbeing. In school, the children are in the garden as much as possible, digging, building, sowing, planting, weeding and generally caring for nature. We even have some baby birds nesting in one of the bird boxes!

Tomorrow is the 75th anniversary of VE day (Victory in Europe day), to commemorate the day the guns fell silent at the end of war in Europe. Children have been learning a bit about this in school and at home, and the Isle of Wight council is encouraging people to mark this occasion from the safety of your homes and gardens. For example, you may have a 'street party' on your driveway, in your garden or in your dining room, or you may decorate your house and windows with homemade bunting made from cereal boxes, paper, fabric, string, wool or whatever you can find! The Royal British Legion (RBL) has organised a programme of events to help families mark the spectacle responsibly. It includes a national moment of reflection and Remembrance at 11:00 on Friday 8th May, not only in recognition of the service and sacrifice of the Second World War generation, but also to reflect on the devastating impact COVID-19 has had on so many lives across the world. Following the silence, the RBL is hosting a VE Day live stream, sharing stories and memories from those who served and sacrificed during the war, which you may want to access on their website. We would love to see what you get up to - email photos to your class home learning emails (let us know if you would like these photos to be shared on our Facebook page).

You may be aware that, on Sunday 10th May, Boris Johnson is addressing the nation detailing measures that will be put into place to partially ease the lockdown. Part of these plans may include the reopening of schools in some form. Once we know further details, we will let you know, and will keep you fully informed throughout the process.

On Tuesday, it was Suzanne's last day before she took her well-deserved retirement. We had a mini-leaving assembly involving the children and staff who were in school that day, which was filmed live on Facebook. It is testament to what a huge impact Suzanne has had on so many people's lives, and it was lovely to see all the comments from children, parents and staff, both past and present. As you know, we will be planning a larger retirement party once restrictions are lifted, and we will let you know about this nearer the time. We wish you a happy retirement, Suzanne!

I mentioned in last week's Buzz that Melissa is now focusing on her role as DSL, FLO and ELSA, among other things. We extend a very warm welcome to Mrs Debbie Pelosi, who will be joining the Brighstone team as our new administrator after half term. However, she will also be part time leading up to half term, so you may get the opportunity to see or speak with her over the coming weeks. Some of you may already know her, as she is currently a school administrator at All Saints Primary School in Freshwater. We know that everyone will make her feel very welcome!

I hope that you all have a lovely Bank Holiday weekend in the sunshine.

Best wishes, and stay safe!

Mrs Lennon and the Brighstone team

Online Safety

During this strange time, we are aware that children will be spending a lot more time online for their learning and enjoyment. If you are unsure about how to keep them safe, below are some useful links for parents:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/schools-esafety/parent-online-support-pack-teachers/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

<https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers>

A prayer for VE Day

From the Act of Commitment for Peace

Lord God our Father,
we pledge ourselves to serve you and all
humankind, in the cause of peace,
for the relief of want and suffering,
and for the praise of your name.
Guide us by your Spirit;
give us wisdom;
give us courage;
give us hope;
and keep us faithful now and always.
Amen.

Safeguarding

At Brighstone Primary School, keeping children safe remains one of our top priorities during these unprecedented times.

Student well-being and safety are vitally important to us and during the enforced school closure period, we remain absolutely committed to keeping children safe. If you have any concerns regarding the safeguarding of children, we are still here for you so please do not hesitate to contact us in the following ways:

Phone: **01983 740285** and request to speak to the **Designated Safeguarding Lead**.

The office is open from 7.30am to 4pm Monday to Friday. For safeguarding concerns outside of these times please email: safeguarding@brighstoneprimary.org.uk

If there is an emergency and you believe a child is in immediate danger, you must **call 999**.

If your concern is urgent, please contact the Hampshire MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) line on: **0300 3000 117** or email childrens.services@hants.gov.uk

Out of hours contact telephone number for Children's Services. Phone **0300 555 1373**

HOW WITHOUT ARMS

How, without arms,
did the sun
climb over the trees?

And without knees
to sink on,
how did it sink behind them?

And without eyes,
how did it peek
through the leaves?

And without
being wakened,
how did it rise?

JonArno Lawson

