

# Ilketshall Newsletter

June 2020

## Wow! What a Year!

The end of the academic year is approaching very rapidly and in not quite the way we all expected and would have wanted. What a strange year it has been! But it is still a year with a lot of high points - one of the greatest of these being how well our children have engaged with their online learning. I have loved looking through Seesaw and Tapestry to see what they have been getting up to, both academically and in their wider lives. I've seen so many examples of fantastic learning including someone mummifying their big brother, an edition of the News at Ten and so many occasions where the whole family have come together to join in with the learning. Well done to you all and thank you for all the support and kind words we have received over the last few months. Unfortunately, due to the restrictions of social distancing in schools, we have not had the chance to see as many of the children in school as we would have liked, however we do have plans to see all of you before the end of term and more information will follow on that later in this letter.

## Staffing

As you are aware, Mrs Puxley left us at Easter and I have been supporting online learning in Tawny Owls since then with Mrs Gilham. I am pleased to announce that Miss Katie Summers is joining our staff in September and will be in Tawny Owls full-time. Our Little Owls already know Miss Summers very well as she successfully completed her teacher training with us this year. Mrs Gilham will remain with us and will be teaching in Little Owls when Mrs Stacey is out of class undertaking her SENCO role supporting additional needs in the school.

## What a Star!

ASSET held a poetry competition during lockdown and I am pleased to announce that from over 150 entries the winner is Daisy Dean from Barn Owls. Her poem was absolutely super and I've shared it below. Well done Daisy!

### Jungle Quarantine

Stay home, they said

Stay home and save lives.

A plague is coming. The  
animal kingdom could be drained of colour.

So the birds stayed in their nest,

The monkeys kept to their tree,

The anteaters retreated to their burrow

And the snakes stuck to their vine.

The queue for the watering hole seemed to get longer every  
day.

I'm lonely, cried the hummingbird, missing her midday  
gossip.

We're bored, complained the tiger cubs, wanting to wrestle  
with their friends.

Life was different....

Life was quiet...

Life was actually not that bad!

Neighbours starting chatting across the trees,

Animals shared their experiences from a safe distance at  
the

watering hole,

Woodpeckers pecked messages to each other in the bark,

Daddy birds helped their fledglings learn to fly.

The world slowed down and gradually it seemed to be  
brighter than  
ever!

The jungle survived the plague,

The animals kept their colour

And everyone learned to appreciate what they have, a  
little  
more.

## End of term picnics (and ice cream!)

We are organising end of term picnics for the children who have not been into school yet just so that we have the chance to see them before the end of term. Due to social distancing rules in schools, we have had to limit the number of children who can be on site at any one time, so unfortunately we have had to keep the amount of time that the children visit us to a minimum. We would love to see them more as we are missing them all and are just as keen as you to get back to normal but we can only work within the guidance that we have been given. Each picnic will take place between 1pm and 2 pm on the following dates as the children cannot mix with the children already on site.

Year 5 - Monday 6th July

Year 1 (who haven't yet been in school) - Tuesday 7th

July

Little Owls (who haven't yet been in school) - Wednesday 8th July

Year 3 - Thursday 9th July

Year 2 - Friday 10th July

Year 4 - Tuesday 14th July

Children will not need school uniform for these events. They will have the opportunity to spend a little time with their current class teacher and hopefully their new teacher if they are moving classes next year. We will ensure that your children use hand sanitiser on arrival at school and prior to leaving. We will endeavour to keep them socially distanced and will explain the rules on arrival however, we cannot guarantee that they will do this as they haven't seen their friends in a very long time! There will be a member of staff available in the car park to see the children onto the site on arrival and we will return the children back to you in the car park at the end of the day. Parents will not be allowed on site. These events are not compulsory, but we would really love to see them all.

Please remember that From Monday 13th July there will only be childcare provision for Key worker children within the school so that we can hold end of term events.

### Year 6 Leavers' Event

Unfortunately, we will miss the opportunity to say our traditional goodbye to our Year 6 children in our usual way. However, we cannot bear the thought of them leaving without a chance to say a proper goodbye to them. Therefore, we are proposing to have a Leavers' Assembly and Picnic on the field on the afternoon of Wednesday 15th July from 1-2.30pm. Unfortunately, much as I was hoping to have parents come along, at the moment it doesn't look as though the current guidelines will allow for that (especially if we have to use the hall in bad weather!), so I'm afraid it looks like it will need to be children only unless the guidance changes in which case I will let you know immediately. For other guidance you will need on visiting the school site please see notes above.

### End of Year Reports

This year we will be sending out end of year reports by email at the start of the final week of school. These will report on the children's progress in the Spring Term and a brief reflection on Lockdown Learning. If you wish to discuss the contents of your child's report please send a message to their classteacher on Seesaw or Tapestry and they will make contact with you.

### Finally....

We are cautiously optimistic that we will be back to some form of normality for September and I will keep you informed of any updates through Seesaw once I receive them. Have a lovely summer!

Mrs Winter

