



### STOP PRESS! Wateringbury Writing Competition!

Parent Cheryl Butler is sponsoring a writing competition. Each week throughout lockdown, she will provide a writing prompt and the children can write a short story (one page or up to 3000 words). A winner(s) will be chosen each week and the winning entries will be published in a book. All proceeds will go to a charity nominated by the children. For further information, see details on the feeds below, or email Cheryl at:

[kidsagainstcoronastories@gmail.com](mailto:kidsagainstcoronastories@gmail.com)

Facebook - @KidsAgainstCorona (Kids Against Corona Short Stories)

Twitter - @KidsNotCorona (Kids Against Corona)

### News Flash!

**A reminder about emailing** me any children's impressions and memories of this time: *If your child would like to write an account of a day at Home School, or a poem, or a diary entry, please email it to me and I will pass it to the KM reporter. The paper would also like a photo of the child if possible so include one if you're happy for it to go in the paper and online. The deadline for this is Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> April. Thank you!*

**Mrs Snow continues to create YouTube sketching lessons. She has a special spring art activity:**

[https://youtu.be/iVauH\\_XvPTI](https://youtu.be/iVauH_XvPTI)

Mrs Snow also has a special memory jar craft activity which is a wonderful way of creating something to capture family memories during this time. The link is:

<https://youtu.be/5wasS-05TWA>

Please share your finished work with me or Mrs Snow: [lsnow@wateringbury.kent.sch.uk](mailto:lsnow@wateringbury.kent.sch.uk)

**Dear parents, I wanted to start by sharing the wonderful news that Mrs Sealy** has had a beautiful baby boy called Noah Timothy. He's a healthy, strong 6 lbs and we send her, her husband Tim and little Noah our love and congratulations. Other spring babies born during this period of school closure are Amber, a little sister for Lily and Catlin Birkbeck and Isabella, a little sister for Scarlett Dunn. We send our congratulations to all those big sisters and families!

**As we go into this next phase of lockdown and Term 5, I have been** wondering what to write to motivate us all to keep going and approach the summer term with renewed enthusiasm. It's not easy as the days and weeks stretch ahead and we have an appreciation of both the pleasures and challenges of home schooling. The poem on page 2 came across my desk this week and I wanted to share it and suggest that all families read it together at 10:20 on Monday morning as part of Home School. This time would have been our first assembly together after the Easter holiday. If you can encourage your children to write their own poem or lines about their dreams (non-rhyming is fine and usually preferable so they aren't limited by rhyme), I will publish and share them over the coming weeks. I am sure we want to capture this time in different ways and this can be one of them. Thank you for taking the time to do a short family assembly together.

**Teachers and I met by conference call this week to discuss planning and** ideas for the summer term. We are keen to hear from every child and teachers have good systems in place to respond to each child, to praise their efforts and to encourage them. A number of parents have been collecting books from the school doorstep. If you are running out of reading material, please email me and I can arrange for the teachers who are at school each day to set replacement books out for you. I know I've said it before, but daily reading is the most important home school activity you can do with your child. Imagine if all our children returned to school as strong and resilient readers! They would each have the most important skill to enable them to accelerate and catch up on things they will have missed.

**From Monday, your class teacher(s) will be uploading daily plans of what is** expected for that day – as we were doing before the holidays. Setting out a clear school routine and high academic expectations for your child will make a big difference to how they feel about Term 5. Thank you for working with us on this. The Department for Education has published a list of excellent websites (many of which our teachers are already accessing) and the link is here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-online-education-resources-for-home-education>

**The recommendation is that children spend 3 hours each day in Home School;** this should include one session of English, one session of maths and another session as planned by the teacher (RE, history, geography, art etc). Many parents are starting the day with the 09:00 Joe Wicks PE session (YouTube). This is a great motivator and Joe makes it very fun and easy to follow. The DfE link above is not meant to get in the way of our Home School plans but is a useful resource if your child is interested in undertaking further work in a favourite subject.

**The Red Cross is publishing a blank calendar** for children to record acts of kindness and ideas/resources by age group. If you incorporate this into your home learning, please send me examples of what your child has done so I can share their ideas. <https://www.redcross.org.uk/get-involved/teaching-resources/kindness-calendar>

And finally, please email me if we can help in any way with anything at all.

Yours sincerely, Chasey Crawford Usher, headteacher

## The Rainbow Children

The history books will talk of now,  
That time the world stood still.  
When every family stayed at home,  
Waved out from windowsills-  
At those they loved but could not hold,  
Because they loved them so.  
Yet, whilst they did they noticed all the flowers start to grow.

The sun came out, they can recall,  
And windows, rainbows filled.  
They kicked a football in their yards,  
Until the night drew in.  
They walked each day but not too close,  
That time the world stood still.  
When people walked straight down the roads,  
That once the cars did fill.

They saw that people became ill,  
They knew the world was scared.  
But whilst the world stood still they saw,  
How much the whole world cared.  
They clapped on Thursdays from their doors,  
They cheered for the brave.  
For people who would risk their lives,  
So others could be saved.

The schools closed down, they missed their friends,  
They missed their teachers so.  
Their Mams and Dads helped with their work,  
They helped their minds to grow.  
The parents used to worry that,  
As schools were put on hold,  
Their children wouldn't have the tools,  
They'd need as they grew old.

But history books will talk of them,  
Now adults, fully grown.  
Those little boys and girls back then,  
The ones who stayed at home.  
They'll tell you that they fixed this world,  
Of all they would fulfil.  
The RAINBOW children building dreams,  
They'd dreamed whilst time stood still.

Gemma Peacock



**Gemma Peacock lives in County Durham.** She is currently working from home and home schooling her two sons. The idea for this poem came to her during an evening walk with her dog. She was worrying about the impact of the virus and lockdown on her children and then noticed all the rainbows in the windows of the neighbourhood houses. Gemma began to think of what positives might come from this extraordinary period in our history and the final two lines came to her first. She then walked home and wrote the rest in an hour.

**Please pause for a moment at 10:20 on Monday morning** with your children and read the poem together. Then, please ask them to write a poem or a few lines about what dreams they have for their future, any future time: after lockdown; as adults; as secondary school pupils. These can be posted to their class learning platform and emailed to me to share with the school community. Thank you.

**Mrs Henry has been in touch with Larkfield Care Home (Lawson House).** The manager is keen for us to bring the children to visit residents when lockdown is over and when it is safe to do so. We thought it would be a good opportunity for the residents and children to share their experiences about this time and forge new bonds and understanding. As your child writes a poem about their dreams or starts a diary about lockdown and Home School, please save it so they have the opportunity to share it with someone else. Next year, we will be focusing on building these sorts of links with Larkfield and other community groups.