



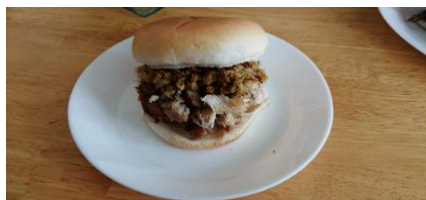
Sunday, 15 November 2020

Dear all

I really hope everyone is well and keeping as happy as possible this week. Miss Clark knows how to lift our spirits, in case anyone needs a boost: she sent me this scrummy photo of her dog's litter of puppies today. Life felt better from that moment on:



If dogs don't do it for you, then maybe food will? Look at this fabulous British Street Food from Oakley for his GCSE coursework:



We are all really proud of your efforts, Oakley.

You may have heard lots and lots of talk about plans for more students being welcomed back into schools after the half term break; for secondary schools like ours, the talk from the Prime Minister and the Department for Education is about **Year 10 having some face to face time with their teachers between the half term break and the Summer**, because of those students being the closest to their exams, of course.

We know that your qualifications are very important to you and that your learning matters so very much – it's what we're all passionate about in every way and we so miss being able to work with you in the usual ways. But we also know that keeping well and safe matters the very most.

So I want to reassure all of you in our **Year 10** of the following really important steps that we will be taking as we think and plan together in our school and with other schools:

- We will be asking you what your questions, worries and fears are about any return to school for Year 10 after the May half term so we can address them with you;
- We'll be asking you what's really important to you about the return and what you're looking forward to so we can build this in as much as we can;

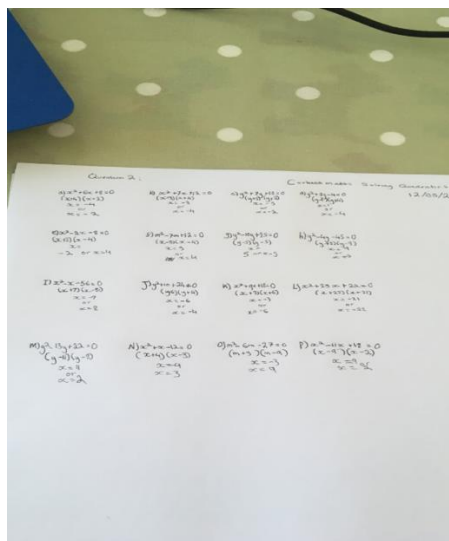
- We'll be asking your parents and carers about this, too, and for their thoughts on you returning for some face to face time with your teachers during next half term;
- We'll be sticking to the letter of the guidance from the Department for Education that's all informed by the best science, about what we do and how we do it.
- We'll be putting your health and that of all our staff and our whole community first in all we do. We are already working hard on this behind the scenes so that we are ready as the detailed guidance about what we will need to do continues to come our way.

You can ask me any questions that hearing about this up to now have created in your minds – just email in at headteacher@noadswood.hants.sch.uk

How are you getting on with your **learning at home** this week? I know that more subject departments are working on their interactive lessons and on their narrated PowerPoints so that you can hear teachers' voices and feel their connection with you and what you're doing in this way. If you've enjoyed those lessons, please let teachers know – the more we can tailor our teaching at this point to what you respond to best, the stronger the learning and the stronger the partnerships as most of us remain working apart. You'll see an increase in those types of lessons and inputs coming from every department, mixed in with the usual activities in the Frog portal.

If you're worried about your learning in any way, in any year group, you can message your teacher or your House Leader on ePraise and you can also email me at headteacher@noadswood.hants.sch.uk and together we'll make sure your concerns get to the right people for you to get the help you need. And remember, you can call Mrs Loveday on Loveday's Lifeline number: 07946 884122 - any time between 10 and 12 each school day if you need a chat about anything school related or any worries of any sort.

Continuing on your work, then, this is some **excellent Maths** (and I know it's excellent because Miss Trodd told me, and she knows her numbers!) from Emily in Y8, rocking out factorising and quadratic equations that's at a GCSE Grade 5 level – bravo Emily!

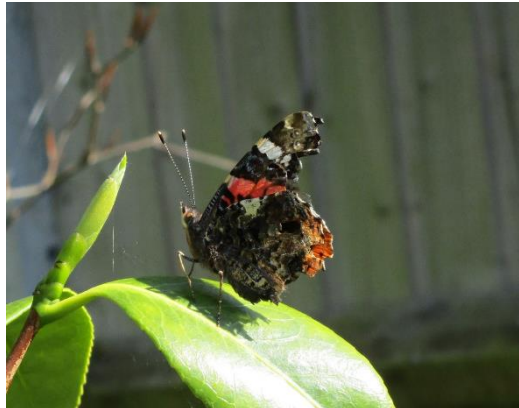


I'd also like you to know that we have the same tablecloth as you! 😊

And I'd strongly encourage you to watch this superbly informative film about the **Korean War** from Olivia – you've done a thoroughly professional job with this, Liv, well done!

[Click here to watch the film](#)

More brilliant work from the Noadswood **Family Art and Photography Gallery** this week, starting with Robyn, Kimi and Sophie:



Jack gave me a laugh with his dog/Prince Harry lookalike piece:



As Jack titled his work, they are both looking cool! We'd also like to wish his Grandad a happy 86th birthday this week from all of us at Noadswood.

There's been some more clever photography, this time by Josh and Daniel in Mrs Sullivan's '**Fake News, False Perspective**' challenge – Josh is picking up a church, and Daniel has the largest toilet roll in town!



Next up is this week's **Kindness Calendar**, focused on getting out into nature when you get out for a walk or some exercise:

Monday	Kind to me	Treat yourself with a long walk today. Try to walk near green areas as much as possible - the air is fresher, and you'll enjoy the walk more! Try to walk for at least 45 minutes, and make sure to pay attention to all the different plants, trees, flowers and animals that you walk past.
Tuesday	Kind to others	Do you know what your family's favourite flowers are? Ask members of your household to tell you what flowers they love, and ask them to describe them. Afterwards, make them a drawing of the flower based only on the description they give you! Once you've finished the drawing you can look at a picture of the flower. You can share your flowers with us on Twitter using #KindnessCalendar and @KindnessSchools
Wednesday	Kind to the world	Think about how humans impact nature in different ways. During the Coronavirus lockdown, nature has started to flourish while humans stayed at home. Search for stories online about how nature has taken back control while people have stayed at home during lockdown.
Thursday	Kind to me	Do you know what kind of trees are growing on your street? Go for a walk around your neighbourhood and take notes of the trees you see. Then, go back home and do some research. What are their names? What flowers do they have and when do they blossom?
Friday	Kind to others	Pick your favourite tree from yesterday and challenge a member of your household to find it. Giving them only the name of the tree and a vague location (for instance 'in the park' or 'on X Street'). Ask them to take a picture once they find it.

I was especially interested in the idea in Wednesday's section of nature thriving whilst more of us have been staying at home, a different kind of relationship between the natural world and human life. I learnt, for instance, that waders like common sandpipers can thrive, less worried about their nests at the edge of streams, because there are fewer of us about and fewer of our dogs' noses shoving their way in. This is a common sandpiper, who's happy we're steering clear!



You could have a think about what you can do to look after nature near your home, so that, as more of us emerge for exercise or to go out to work, we're still focusing on nature doing well alongside us. Let me know of any work you do in your garden or in your local area – kindness to nature is kindness to yourself and to all of us. **I'd also love to see what your family members' favourite flowers are**, if you do Tuesday's activity (I know we're a bit late with this calendar this week, but it doesn't matter what day you do any of it – it's all brilliant kind and mindful stuff!) Send any of your work or pictures to headteacher@noadswood.hants.sch.uk

Pets continue to do so much for us, too, during this lockdown, right? Amy wanted to send a picture of her springer spaniel, Parker Wanderer, and explain the tough time she has had recently. She told me:

At the start of lockdown, she became very ill. At first the vet thought it was just a sickness bug that had been going round dogs recently. When she didn't get better, the vet realised it was something more serious, so they took an X-ray, and realised there was an infection on her kidney. When they went in to remove the infection, they found it was too close to a main artery for them to remove it, so they sent us to a specialist vet in Ringwood who (after more scans) told us they would have to remove her kidney. When they went in to remove it, they found they would have to take out some of her intestine as well. All this means that Parker, who loves running around, has to stay indoors with short lead walks until the middle of May. Parker is making a good recovery and is back to her normal playful self, although she does have a big scar up her belly.



Well done, mighty Parker, we're rooting for your recovery to continue and we understand what it's like not being able to go where you want to right now! It's important for you to share, like Amy has done, the things you and your family are going through in life in lockdown – if you'd like to share it with us through these letters or just really quietly with one person, make sure you do share. I say this all the time, but that's because it's all important: you'll feel so much better when you share.

Talking of sharing, amazing former Noadswood student, Elizabeth Bridges, would love you to share your views in a **survey from the Youth Commission called *The Big Conversation*. This year's topic is *Policing and Crime***. If you're in Years 9-11, there are just six questions to answer that would allow you to share your thoughts on these really important issues in our community. You could give some creative ideas, too:

<https://www.surveymzmo.eu/s3/90201150/Youth-Commission-Big-Conversation-2020>

Let's end today with rainbows and sunshine, enhanced by Beth's beautiful dog:



See if you can turn your face to the sunshine and to being the brightest, best version of yourself as another week ticks by – we're with you all the way and we love hearing from you. We love those of you who are joining in and sharing your work and your creativity with us, but we also love the approach loads of you are taking just to get through each day gently, quietly and bravely. It all takes massive effort and I am proud.

Back with you in a day or two,

Miss M