

Chenies School Newsletter

Friday 3rd April 2020

Headteacher's News

End of Term Thoughts and David Hockney

Some of you may have seen an item about David Hockney on BBC news on Wednesday. He gave a very moving account of his thoughts about the troubled times we are faced with and is sharing 10 of his most recent images (including one animation), nine of which have never been published before, for us all to enjoy at this difficult time, along with his thoughts on the role of art in life. He said this:

"The only real things in life are food and love in that order, just like our little dog Ruby. I really believe this and the source of art is love."

Many of you I know are anxious about the effect that not being in school will have on your children both socially and academically. Some are concerned that they will have fallen behind by the time they return to school. If you are one of those people (and even if you are not) I want to say this to you: all your child needs from you to make the most of life is food and love, in that order. We need to put missing a few months of school into perspective, put simply let us make the most of this additional time we have as families to share meals together and to build our love.

We will all look back on this time for many years to come and I believe it is important to try and create out of it some happy memories which we will go on to relive again and again with our children, grandchildren and possibly great grandchildren! Your children will remember the practical activities of making cakes, playing board games, sharing books, reading a really good book in one sitting or making up your own words to songs together, they probably will not remember the Pobble stories they have written or the maths problems they have solved.

I urge you then to relax and let your children learn from life's experiences. You have my assurance that when they return to school the staff at Chenies will continue to work with them all to ensure they continue to achieve the best they can.

I hope that you will spend the next two weeks of the timetabled Easter Holiday enjoying some sunshine and living life at a slower pace than we usually do. I think that will surely benefit us all.

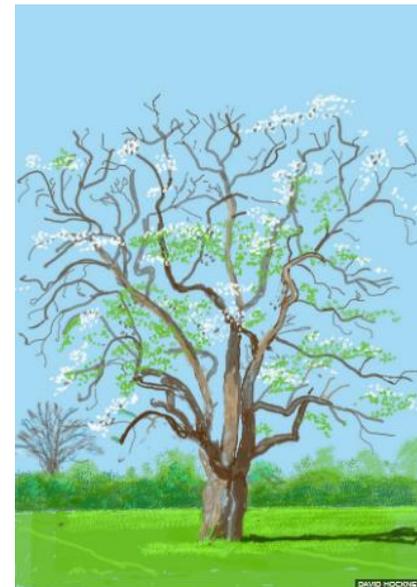
If you would like to read the whole of Hockney's interview and see all of the pictures including the animated one you can do so on the BBC website: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-52109901>

Children's Reports

I know many of you have already received your child's reports through the post but if you have not received it by the end of Monday please email the office and we will send a copy by email.

Ordinarily we would be offering you the chance to make an appointment to see your child's class teacher to discuss their report, but with the current circumstances this isn't a viable option. Should you have any questions or queries about your child's report, please send these to the office email address with the subject line: FAO (name of class teacher) REPORT DISCUSSION. We will endeavour to get these questions replied to as quickly as possible next term.

Many thanks for your understanding.



Chenies School News

Thank you so much for all the positive feedback about how helpful you are finding the daily news letter. It is my intention to keep it going through the Easter Holiday to enable us all to remain connected and smiling. I will not promise to do it every day but I will do it as and when I have enough photographs to fill up the two pages. I am also happy to add short video clips to the website –if more children could perform a poem like Oliver did that would be marvellous. It does not have to be an original poem it would be just as lovely if the children could find a poem in a book they would like to perform.

School Closure During the Easter Holiday and Emergency Contact Details

The school will be closed as there has not been sufficient demand for us to remain open. If you are a key worker, or your child has an EHCP, or is defined as vulnerable by the current guidance, and you wish us to support you then please contact me. The school will re-open if there is a need communicated to us by parents. If any parent needs to contact me specifically during the holiday please do so via head@chenies.bucks.sch.uk. I will be checking my emails daily.

Home Learning from Monday 20th April

The teachers have prepared new learning tasks for the week beginning the 20th April. They will be added to the school website on the morning of the 20th April and I will send an email explaining how to access them.

Message from Olaf Falafel (The author who visited us last year and wrote One Giant Leek for Mankind)



This is just a quick message to say that I am setting up a regular Art Club on YouTube every Monday at 11am - the link to my channel is here: <https://www.youtube.com/user/OlafFalafel>

The first one is this coming Monday April 6th.

The half hour episodes will be in a similar vein to the assemblies I've been doing in schools the last 12 months - a bit of drawing - a bit of painting - a bit of fun and just a pinch of learning!

It'd be great to see any pictures that the kids make or any feedback from those who watch.

Useful Websites

Mrs Wilson has found this website: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4Ppwly9A553faW5UWF4Yog> full of books which children can watch being read aloud. The stories are mainly aimed at children in the EYFS and KS1 but to be honest I think we can all enjoy a good children's story, whatever age we are!

Mrs Walker has found that there are lots of good ideas for things to do indoors on the Scouts website which she thinks lots of you will enjoy. If you try some perhaps you could send a photograph in of you doing one to include on the newsletter. <https://www.scouts.org.uk/the-great-indoors/>

Please take care of yourselves and your loved ones and keep smiling at your wonderful children, even when they test your patience to the limits. Remember there will be times when you test their patience to its limits too!

Suzanne Powell