

Dear Parents,

As we approach what would have been a return to school I wanted to keep in touch. I do hope you are all well and keeping safe. Thank you to all of you who have enabled and encouraged your children to engage with their teacher via the VLE. The staff do appreciate the children keeping in touch. We all miss them terribly, and this contact is very important for the children. Please could you remind and enable them to be in contact with their teacher at least twice each week as we move into what would have been summer term. Thank you.

We will continue to use the VLE as our main means of communication with the children; and we are regularly adding websites to the dedicated page on the school website Parent section should you wish to use some of these to support your children's learning at home. These have been carefully chosen to offer a range of experiences and support. Work for next week will be posted on Tuesday morning (as Monday would have been an INSET day), and on Monday mornings in the following weeks. Each week will have a range of activities from which the children can select their daily activities as long as all are completed across each week. This learning will be discussed when the children are able to return to school. The learning is themed so that siblings will be working on the same theme but different activities. (We are aware that on-line teaching is being used by some schools – particularly for older children; however, we do not consider it appropriate for our children as, for one, it causes considerable stress for many families due to the technology required.)

These are very difficult and uncertain times for us all, with at present no end in sight. I wanted to again share with you all that we do not expect the children to be learning as usual whilst at home. As parents you all have multiple responsibilities and, at present, survival and working from home where possible are very high on the agenda for all of you. You are not trained teachers and we do not expect you to fulfil this role. Please remember you are not superman/woman; love, stability and support with the tasks set by their teachers is what your children need most at the moment. At school we do teach and encourage the children to develop independence, and that is something you can support as they tackle the learning activities set. Failure is part of learning so please do not stress if your children struggle with some tasks – this is an important learning behaviour for them. Once we are able to return to school our first priority will be the emotional and mental well-being of the children, and settling them back into the school community. The activities they have been doing will be discussed, and we will then move their learning forward to enable them to be confident in the core skills. Please do keep us informed if there are family circumstances which have emotionally affected your children – we are there to support them and yourselves.

I do hope you and your children are making the most of the exercise time permitted outside of the home daily whilst observing the appropriate social distancing. Playing I-spy and spotting the developing signs of spring and summer add interest to a walk, as well as admiring the gardens which have been receiving unprecedented attention! Hope is important at this time, and life will eventually return to a form of normality. It is crucial that we keep this in mind for the children as days and weeks feel much longer to them than to adults.

Keep safe.

Mrs K. Tamlyn

*Please do consider if you and your children would like to support this charity and enter the competition. If so, please do send photos of your children's creations to the office email address also, so that we can celebrate what they have done by adding them to the school website.*

*Mrs K. Tamlyn*



## **Celebrate 75 years since the end of World War II**

### **Art competition for all of your students, their families and you!**

Due to the current extraordinary circumstances, most of the national VE Day 75 celebrations have unfortunately been postponed.

SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity has partnered with Fujitsu to find a way for people to celebrate this important date in history - something everyone can get involved in from the comfort of their own homes.

SSAFA is running the **VE Day 75 Art Competition** and would like your students to create their best piece of VE Day 75 themed art. If you're unsure where to start, think poppies, celebrating soldiers, bunting, street parties and Union Jack flags.

[JOIN THE COMPETITION](#)

Your artistic creation can be a drawing, a painting, a sculpture or whatever you think best celebrates VE Day 75. Your students can invite all of their family to get involved as we have a range of age categories for the competition which are: 0-5, 6-10, 11-14, 15-17, 18+

**How to enter** – [follow this link](#), or click the button above, to upload a photo of your artistic creation along with the name and age of the artist, with a minimum donation of £2 per entry.

**What you can win** – SSAFA has some amazing prizes up for grabs including SSAFA teddy bears, SSAFA Chilly's water bottles, a Ceramic Poppy and a Tandem Parachute Jump with the Red Devils.

The deadline for your submission is Monday 27 April and the winner will be announced at midday on VE Day itself - Friday 8 May.

We can't wait to see your VE Day 75 themed masterpieces!