

Hello everyone. It's been a little while since I have sent you a video message so I wanted to send you one now before we break up for the summer holidays. It's been really lovely to see lots of you returning to school for a time and I can't wait to see you all again in September.

It really has been an unusual time hasn't it? We might not have planned it or expected it but in a way it's been a bit of an adventure. Like all adventures it's been a bit scary, certainly challenging, taken us out of our comfort zones and lead to learning new things as well as having moments of excitement.

Although we have all been on an adventure in similar circumstances, each one will be unique to us. Mine is different to yours and yours different to your neighbours or other members of your family. Your parents will have experienced home schooling in way they will not have done before, often for multiple ages and whilst balancing a job! That will have been challenging and exciting at times too. You have all learnt to learn in a different way and I know many of you have really missed being with friends and perhaps we have taken friendships a bit for granted and we now see how important they are.

Walking in the countryside has always been a favourite activity of mine but during the long weeks of Lockdown when we had sunny, dry day after sunny dry day I spent many evenings and early mornings walking, discovering new routes and noticing the seasons and the natural world in a way I have not done before. Contemplating the day just spent or the one to follow, I was often reminded of a book which you will know well- 'We're Going a Bear Hunt' by Michael Rosen.

As I have travelled along on my adventure I often came across 'sticky mud', dark forests' and 'long grass' and thought

'Oh no! I can't go over it, I can't go under it....I will have to go through it!' Have you felt that too? I bet you have and I bet your family have too.

So now as we come to the end of the strangest school year on record (schools have never been closed before – not even during the world wars!) it's good to reflect on where we are in our adventure.

What makes an adventure?

- Knowing where you are now? That means knowing your own location, countryside but also who is around you who you value. Friends family etc Its about knowing our Kith and our Kin. Take a minute to consider where you are now...what have you learnt to do that couldn't do before – for example I can recognise a little more of the bird song in my garden. Perhaps you have learnt something about nature too? (I saw a lovely 'newt video' from someone in Y5
- Knowing where you want to go? What's really important can be a location or what you want to do in life. Join a club, learn to swim, learn to sail ... set you on a course for adventure. Where will your adventure take you next?
- Knowing other people will make it safer, easier, more fun No adventure is ever alone – even those people that have sailed round the world on their own for example have coast guards watching out for them, navigation networks and so on
- Knowing it will be tricky at times, other times breath taking, wonderful– an adventure that is easy is not an adventure. There is no point in doing it. An adventurer would always recognise it will be challenging at times but wonderful and exciting at other. my bird song challenge was much harder than I had thought it would be
- Knowing that you will get there– You and I know you can achieve whatever you put your minds to. All of you will wake up tomorrow ready for the next days adventure and I look forward to seeing most of you well and rested ready for our next adventure together and for others we all wave you off on your next wonderful adventure to a new school.

Those who seek adventure tend to have 5 key rules that we can look to:

So like all great adventurers remember those five things.

- Know who's important to you and look after them.
- Know where you want to go and set a plan.

- Know how much friends mean and look after them.
- Know and accept there will be tricky times but you have all proved you can overcome tricky times and there will be wonderful times too.

Most importantly .....

- know and believe as I do that you will get there.

Take care, stay safe and enjoy that adventure wherever it takes you. Have a great summer. See you in September!

Finish with the Irish Blessing