

Message from Head of School

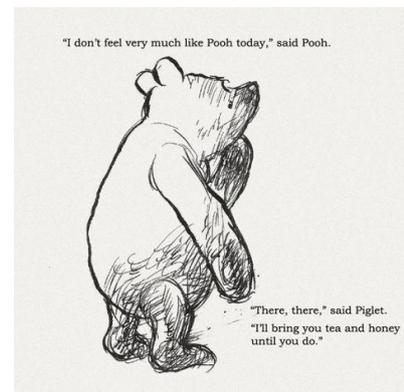
Well it is very strange times that we are living in at the moment. Maybe strange is not necessarily the right word, for some, challenging would be more appropriate. Usually you would be reading the latest half termly newsletter celebrating the great strengths of our school and the wonderful staff, students and parental body that make Hampton Gardens a great community to be part of.

The last three weeks have made me realise how true this really is. Right from the start when we had to close the school, the staff have been amazing at coming together to work as teams to produce resources for students to continue with their learning. Over the last two weeks students have been truly amazing in how they have adapted to this new way of learning and have had to show resilience and determination when things have not gone as smoothly as they would have liked. Thirdly, you the parents and carers have been amazing at supporting and encouraging your children to get the work completed. I would like to thank you also for the many emails that we have received thanking staff for their support, these are greatly appreciated and, without fail, I do share these with staff so they know that you are all grateful for the efforts they are going to.

Working online has its pitfalls, poor internet connection, not enough devices in the home to access the materials, software not always doing what it should. These are similar experiences that I and other teachers have also experienced when we have had to be working from home as well. But it has been great that you have been finding solutions to show your teachers that you have done the work, taking photos and uploading, and, when the OneNote document will not upload on your phone properly, emailing it instead. All we ask is that students try their best to access the work and attempt it to the best of their ability, adopting the same approach to normal home learning, if a task is set to last 40 minutes, don't spend hours trying to complete it. Being at home is no different than being at school, there will be good days and bad, uplifting and frustrating. This Winnie the Pooh quote sums it up beautifully:

"I don't feel very much like Pooh today," said Pooh

"There, there" said Piglet. "I'll bring you tea and honey until you do."



We all have these feelings and need to be supported what ever stage of life we are at. If you are struggling, take time out to talk and remember that we are here to help if needed.

As you start the Easter holidays, there will be no expectation for students to be doing any new work set by teachers, this includes meeting deadlines for today (3 April). We want you to take the time over the next two weeks to catch up on any work not completed, spend time reading a book or playing games with your family. Try to have as much of a break from screens as possible, but if you are at a loose end, we have posted some additional resources on the website that you may like to try. Take your

time over things, there is no need to rush to get things done, which seems a strange thing to say when we are usually living in a world that, at times, seems to be operating at one hundred miles an hour.

No-one knows how long we are going to be continuing with the present situation, but please be reassured that the staff are here to help and support you through these difficult times and are looking forward to returning to the normality of everyday life. Who knows when this occurs we may come back stronger, more appreciative and more determined to strive for the goals we want to achieve. It is not until something is taken away that you realise how much you need it. With the future in mind all students have been set the PD learning task of signing up for an account on the START careers website. We hope you can use this website to research careers information to help plan your future pathway.

Needless to say to everyone needs keep safe, stay at home and follow the Government guidelines to help support the NHS. I am sure that everyone is supporting the NHS workers with the weekly clapping on a Thursday, keep this up as this is the best way to show these amazing people how much we appreciate them. If everyone does this it will mean a quicker return to everyday life.

I want to finish with a final quote from Ruth Belanger, an inspirational speaker, which I think gives great advice to us all.

STOP. PAUSE. BREATHE.

CRY IF YOU MUST.

BUT KEEP GOING.

Thinking of you all.

Mr Greenwood and the staff of Hampton Gardens