



Hopelands Preparatory School
38/40 Regent Street, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, GL10 2AD

Newsletter 15th May

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An Update from Miss White

The sun has been shining (almost) everyday through the lockdown, and it has been truly wonderful to explore where we live. Instead of the usual routes around Uley Bury and the woods near our house, we have taken time to get the ordnance survey maps out and stretch beyond our walking comfort zone. My daughter Thea and our Labrador Monty discovered a hidden (well, it was to us until very recently!) valley near Owlpen, and it was positively smothered in wild garlic flowers. It was like stumbling across a fairytale landscape of summer snow... until Monty crashed through the woodland floor, chasing imaginary creatures and generally being as giddy and frenzied as a young dog can be! Magical peace and tranquillity shattered, but he was a happy and very tired boy by the time we got home. And we all smelt of wild garlic. Wonderful.

The time spent at home with my family has been special, as we took time to go through boxes of old family photographs on VE Day and talk about the stories that were shared with us when we were children. On the same day in Wales (where the rest of my family live) my brother and sisters were doing the same thing with their families, and I know that this happened up and down the UK.

A little bit like the following:

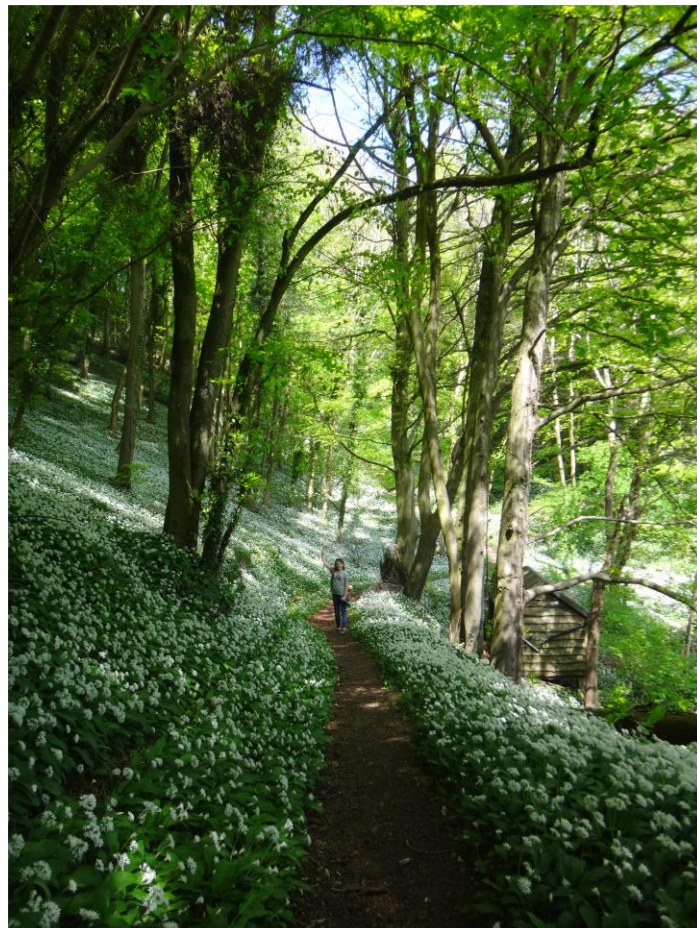
How many times have we baked new and experimental cakes and puddings in the last 7 weeks? Simple answer: A LOT (here is a challenge for you: Aquafaba meringues made from tinned chickpea liquid)

How many times has the cereal cardboard, PVA, paint and string been used to be creative and make new and imaginary worlds: A LOT

How many times have we been out for a bike ride/family walk/dog walk/woodland walk/explore walk/bluebell walk/field walk/stream walk (you get the idea...): A LOT

How many times have my daughters been fighting over just about anything: A LOT

We have counted our blessings (many times) that we live where we do, we share the kindness and thoughtfulness of neighbours and that as we go out and about with Monty people smile and wave hello. I hope you are all enjoying your time at home in the best way you can, and please please keep sending in your creative wonderfulness for the newsletter. It is a highlight of my week!"



Cards of Kindness

One of the school's neighbours is the Regency Retirement Home. At Christmas, our older children visit them to sing, which is always a lovely occasion and one which the residents really look forward to. We had also planned to do 'PyjamaDrama' with them during the summer term which would have involved the younger children, but unfortunately this has had to be cancelled due to the current climate.

As you can imagine with the current restrictions around Coronavirus, their residents are unable to see their families and friends, this is tough for us all but especially for the elderly. We thought we could help brighten their day by the children sending cards of kindness. We know that small gestures in everyday life, like showing compassion and performing random acts of kindness, help us feel loved, and we would like to show some of this to our neighbours.

We have spoken to them and asked if we are able to send cards and they have confirmed their residents would be absolutely thrilled to receive these. To ensure safety and minimise any risk to health they are leaving all post sealed for a few days therefore it will be safe for us to send cards in.

If you would like to join in with this, please write a letter maybe say a joke or a riddle and let them know that we are thinking of them. Making a difference can be so simple, yet it can be incredibly impactful. There are 11 ladies and 1 gentleman in residence there.

Please send your letter/card to school by Thursday 21st May at the latest, I will then take them all over in 1 go.

Thank you for your help and support with this.



Children's Gallery

There have been some amazing pieces of creative work and activities which the children have been doing at home. Please do continue to send your pictures in as we love to see them.

Birthday Cake & A Gargoyle by Nadia

Nadia made this delicious looking birthday cake for her dad. A Victoria sponge with choc chips at the bottom, and Nutella, chocolate chips and cream in the middle. Well done Nadia, it looks delicious and a slice of chocolate heaven!



Nadia has also been busy drawing and designing a gargoyle which she has created out of clay. She made it with a waterspout feature! Incredibly clever, good work Nadia.



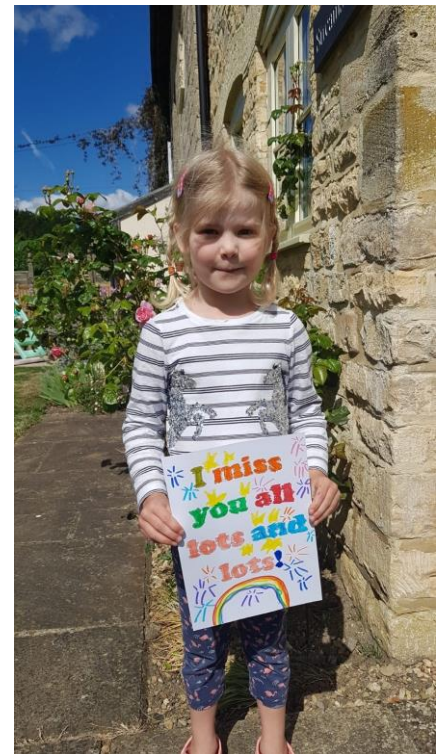
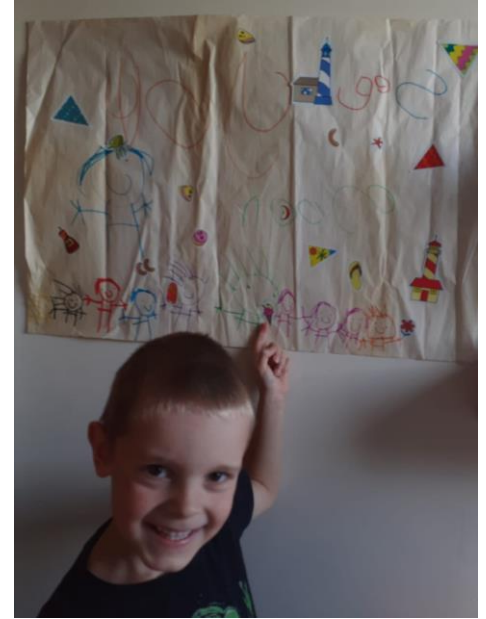
Baking by Joe

Joe has been missing Mrs Lord and cookery club so every Monday they have carried on with their own cookery club at home. Joe has been choosing his own recipes and his family have enjoyed some delicious meals. They all look fantastic, well done Joe!



Reception

This week some of the Reception children sent in pictures to say they were missing Hopelands. Thank you! We absolutely love them and miss you all very much.



Reception



Lockdown Diaries, by Mr Piper

Mrs Compton has invited me to say something about what I have been doing in the last six weeks or so. I am afraid that this puts me in a quandary; how much am I allowed to reveal. You see, I have been told to stay silent. Anyway, I will do my best....

Lockdown Diaries 1

It all started that Friday evening when I heard a car coming up the long drive. I looked out of the drawing-room window to see a black limousine pull to a halt in front of the house, and a man run up the steps to the door. He rang the bell. Travers shuffled across the hall to answer it, but I stopped him with a gesture.

‘I’ll see to it, Travers,’ I reassured him.

I opened the door.

‘Good evening, Major –’, I began, but he cut me short.

‘No need for names,’ he said. ‘Come at once. We have a crisis on our hands.’

Minutes later, I was climbing into the back seat of the car. My companion closed the front passenger door with a satisfying clunk and told the chauffeur to drive on.

There was someone beside me on the rear seat. He was fast asleep, and I could not see his face. In fact, it was only when we came to the roundabout onto the M4 and the movement of the car jerked him awake that I recognised him.

‘Bor–’

Again the man in the front seat stopped me:

‘No names. Please!’

Lockdown Diaries 2

I sat back. Before long, we were on the outskirts of London, passing under those ghastly orange streetlamps. The sulphur glow illuminated the head of my companion and turned his tousled mop into something resembling one of my wife’s yellow chrysanthemums after a tornado.

We made our way through the deserted streets, past Buck House with its memories of many a convivial evening and on towards Westminster.

Now there’s a pedestrian crossing just after Admiralty Arch. I expect you know it. It’s the one where a chap in a green sports car nearly ran me down when I was in the service. He’s now learning manners at her Majesty’s pleasure, I’m glad to say.

Anyway, back to the pedestrian crossing. The lights turned from green to red just as we approached, and somehow instinct kicked in unerringly.

‘Don’t stop!’ I barked at the driver. ‘Go! Go!’

TO BE CONTINUED.....