

The Lord bless you, And keep you, Make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you.

The Lord turn His Face toward you, And give you peace.

*'The UK Blessing Song, based on the book of Numbers Chapter 6*

Dear Parents and Carers

Our school building may be (largely) closed but, as a school community we are alive and kicking, preparing lessons, training, planning for September, uploading assemblies, cleaning, contacting children and parents, writing reports and much, much more. The budget still has to be set and staffing arrangements for next academic year are being worked on whilst also preparing to re-open the school as soon as we can once lockdown restrictions are lifted.

Our churches are also closed but still 'at work' streaming services online and supporting charitable causes. Many have also come together to sing a song of blessing. As mentioned in a recent 'Awesome Assembly', it is wonderful to see so many denominations and so many different faces singing separately, but together, to one God. It's worth watching:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUtl3mNj5U&safe=true>

Tomorrow we remember VE Day, 75 years ago. The battles and dangers then were very visible. The father of a French friend of mine said that in occupied France you could see the enemy coming and hide in the trees but with COVID-19 we have an unseen enemy. After VE Day it took time for normality to resume and the same will be true for us post-lockdown. However, let's work together to ensure that St Nic's is buzzing again soon!

Finally, do keep or get in touch with other parents! If you have their number, give them a ring/text and ask how they are. Don't wait to be contacted, be the first to contact them... They might really appreciate it!

Every blessing in this difficult time,  
David and Andy

Mr Etherton, Mr Lincoln and team

## 1. COMMUNICATION

- **Keep in touch:** do keep in touch with the school and share significant highs and lows that you and your family may be facing. We may be able to help, point you in the direction of help or at least 'walk' with you in our thoughts and prayers. Email [office@stnm.org.uk](mailto:office@stnm.org.uk)
- **Emails:** please use the [office@stnm.org.uk](mailto:office@stnm.org.uk) to contact the school with any queries. Email is currently our main form of communication so we are receiving a huge amount – we will endeavour to respond as soon as possible!
- **Dates & Events:** all events have been cancelled until further notice.
- **Letters sent home this week:** Click on the link to see past letters <http://www.stnicolasmary.w-sussex.sch.uk/page/?title=Letters+Sent+Home&pid=56>
- Poster for children – 7<sup>th</sup> May (this is instead of the normal weekly letter)

## 2. WORSHIP & ETHOS:

- **VE DAY:** tomorrow is VE Day (bank holiday!) Do watch our special Awesome Assembly with Fr James and many of our children. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NyvdmLso930&t=204s&safe=true>
- **Superheroes:** Over the next two weeks we will be looking at Old Testament 'Superheroes' featuring Enoch the Walker, Noah Boat Builder, Abraham the Father and Sarah Miracle Mother. We have some great episodes in the pipeline assisted by Mrs Bishop and Fr James as well as Superheroes Brave Brock (aka Mr Badger) and Mystery (aka 'Mister E') who are trying to track down the Big Bad Wolf who has been spotted on the school's CCTV getting up to tricks...
- **Poster to children:** please share the surprise poster from staff to the children! Big thanks to Mrs Westcott for coordinating this!



## 3. RAINBOW CLUB – childcare

- **Snacks:** Please can your child bring in a morning and afternoon snack with them to Rainbow Club, preferably fruit, carrot, tomato etc as the Fruit and Vegetable scheme is not operational during the lockdown. Thank you.
- **Future Bookings for the Rainbow Club** for Keyworker & Vulnerable children is now available on sQuid OFFERS. Please make your bookings as soon as possible or by 12 noon the day before. Thank you.

- **Opening dates:** as things stand we do not intend to run Rainbow Club on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May, Spring Bank Holiday. However, we hope to run Rainbow Club during half term, excluding the Bank Holiday, from Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> (unless the lockdown requirements are eased).

#### 4. CURRICULUM

- **Building Learning Power Days:** Thank you for sharing all the wonderful, creative projects you worked on during last week's Building Learning Power Days. I was amazed by the effort, teamwork, questioning and research skills the children demonstrated. It is clear they all developed many of the Building Learning Power skills. If you would like any further information on Building Learning Power please look on the school website on the Parents & Carers > Curriculum tab. Mrs Westcott
- **Feedback:** Big Gold Star to all parents for all your efforts in home schooling! We acknowledge the challenges that you have (as do many staff!) juggling 'work', motivating children, shopping, keeping spirits up, supporting others etc. We always appreciate your feedback on the work we are setting and our communication and will take as much of it as possible into account. There is a range of parental (and pupil) views / expectations – but we will do what we can. The main thing is that if you feel there is too much or inappropriate work being set, just don't do it – but do keep up with the reading! We are moving forward with the government sponsored scheme to use better systems to communicate/teach through but we are not sure how long this will take to implement through our technicians. The good news is that these arrangements are not forever (although it may seem like it!) and we hope the lockdown will at least be partially lifted soon so that we can have more face to face contact with the children.

#### 5. ACTIVITIES TO DO

- **A Stitch in our Time:** community project to create a large quilt made up of individual squares of fabric. Go to the website Pupils > Useful home learning links & resources > Art & Design, French & Music or [click here for information and instructions](#).
- **Worthing Theatres and Museum story writing competition** Worthing Theatres are asking children to write short stories suggesting how the very mysterious Highdown Goblet came to be buried on the South Coast of England. The Highdown Goblet is one of Sussex's great archaeological mysteries! Made in Egypt, but with Greek writing and found buried on the Sussex coast with a possibly Germanic settler. No one knows! So WTM are asking children to get creative and write a short story explaining how the fragile glass goblet ended up there. Was bought and sold many times over, stolen or given as a gift to a weary traveller, or maybe there was magic, aliens or time travellers involved? Let your imagination run wild and create the most unique and magical story you can, don't worry it doesn't have to be historically accurate! More details on the competition, Highdown Goblet and Highdown Hill can be found on their website at [wtam.uk/stories/highdown-goblet-story/](http://wtam.uk/stories/highdown-goblet-story/). Stories should be less than 500 words and winners will be selected from three age groups: 7 and under, 8-11, and 12-16. The closing date is Wednesday 3rd June 2020 and winners will receive 4 tickets to the family show of their choice! Entries can be emailed to [marketing@wtam.uk](mailto:marketing@wtam.uk).

#### 6. USEFUL HOME LEARNING LINKS AND RESOURCES – NEW ADDITIONS

- [Useful Home Learning Links and Resources](#) (click on link) or go to Pupils>Useful home learning links & resources.
- University of Chichester free resource: [A Parent's Guide to Promoting Early Learning and Development at Home \(0-5 years\) Supporting Families During the Coronavirus Pandemic](#)'.
- History storytime: <https://www.historystorytime.com/e/ww2-ve-day-the-75th-anniversary-of-victory-in-europe/>