



19 March 2020

Dear Parents

I do hope that the accounts below of brilliant learning experiences, along with the joyful pictures, help to raise your spirits in these uncertain times. At school there has been laughter and positivity even when plans have had to change. Within our school, calm and consistency have presided.

There are some precautionary measures which we need to take to ensure that we are keeping our children safe by following the best advice available, as we remain open as a school tomorrow.

We will not be holding our usual pop in to Lower School classes, this Friday.

I will be asking the children to spread out using more pews than usual for our school assembly. On this occasion I will not be inviting parents, family members and friends to join us, unless your child has a birthday to celebrate. If you wish to come to assembly because your child has a birthday, you will be welcome but please come to sign in at the school office.

Parents' Prayers will be going ahead on Friday as usual at 8:50. If you are joining us for this you are asked to sign in at the office first, before making your way to the Music Room.

### **Year 6 Aquamarines – Hooke Court**

There was a buzz of excitement as we gathered at the station, each one of us eagerly anticipating becoming a WW1 soldier for the next three days. The journey flew by in the blink of an eye, and suddenly we were immersed in the Dorset countryside. Having successfully bridged the moat on Wednesday afternoon, we were formally enlisted as soldiers and given a silver shilling as a reward. Thursday, well what can we say ... every type of weather (yes, even snow!) and mud, mud and a lot more mud!

Our time in the trenches really brought to life just what the war was like for the soldiers and how awful it must have been. Going over the top was probably one of our most memorable yet slightly harrowing experiences of the trip. Placing a poppy in remembrance of those wonderful men that fought for our freedom was certainly all the more poignant having just been in a trench. Hooke Court will certainly be a trip that we will remember for a lifetime! - Zach

## Year 6 Aquamarines - Hooke Court











## **Year 5 Topaz – Weald and Downland Museum**

On Monday 9 March Year 5 went on a school trip to the Weald and Downland Museum. The weather was mild and there was no rain despite what the forecast had predicted. When we got on the coach, everyone was buzzing with excitement.

Here is an account of the trip by the children:

“My favourite house was the blacksmith’s. There was a big forge at the back, where one of the volunteers placed a bit of steel in the forge and when it came out it was glowing amber. The man then positioned the piece of steel on an anvil and banged it with a hammer. The noise was deafening! You could see the steel bending and getting thinner by the second. He told us he was making a candle holder. Sadly we couldn’t see the finished product but some of us did get the chance to try out our blacksmith skills, and we even saw the Repair Shop building nearby.

After lunch, we went to visit Mr Well’s Tudor house. Mr Wells was extremely rich, so he had a massive house, with a fireplace, servants and a garden full of plants growing such as beetroot, rosemary and parsley. We could see how the walls had been made from wattle and daub.

One of the groups also got to briefly experience a Victorian lesson in the tiny school house, where they were shown Victorian coins and had a go at writing their names on the slates.



We all had a great time at the Weald and Downland museum and enjoyed seeing all the houses through history.”





Thank you all for your understanding, patience and support at this difficult time.

The positivity of the staff has spread to the children and there is a real feeling of resilience and perseverance. We will come through these challenging and changing times, and throughout it all, God's love for each of our children and families will be ever constant. I pray for the safety and wellbeing of all in our school community,

With every good wish for Easter.

*N. S. Baldwin*

**Mrs N S Baldwin**  
**Principal**