



ParentMail

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Thank You!

Dear Parents

Thank you for your donations to Marie Curie to mark the National Day of Reflection. Together, we have raised £603.00 which is wonderful – thank you! We will now forward your donations to this remarkable charity who provide invaluable service, support, nursing and hospice care.

It was important to come together as a school community yesterday and have time for reflection and thought. Some wonderful stories created a starting point for discussion, drama, philosophy, art and role-play. Stories included Badger's Parting Gifts; The Memory Tree; No Matter What; Shelter for Sadness; The Sad Book and Are you sad, little bear? The books are all beautiful books, thought-provoking and carefully chosen to provide age-appropriate access to our discussions.

We rang the old school bell to begin a two-minute silence, which was followed by Collective Worship in class. The children were thrilled to hear the old bell in action!

During the day, children explored different media to create their own daffodils – printing, wreaths, suncatchers, pinwheels, sculpture, window art, sketching, watercolours, clay and cross-stitch.

Throughout the day, each class tied their ribbon to the trellis at the front of the school as a symbol of their memory, thought or prayer.

The children certainly enjoyed listening to a song from Graham Kendrick and the Virtual Choir and as I have now been asked about it several times– here is the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=auwgDr2BA7E> Enjoy!

Talking to the children yesterday made me realise how much our last year's experiences have become such a part of children's understanding and language. Hearing our youngest children talk about self-isolation, Coronavirus, keyworkers, frontline workers, loss and bereavement was incredibly humbling but their articulation and empathy shows what an amazing job you have done to guide your children through such challenging times.

Today, I have met with a group of children – some who have attended school during lockdown and some who have been learning remotely at home. We have learned about their experiences, which bits they have found tricky and what has helped and supported them. It was lovely to hear that they recognise how difficult it has been for parents who have been trying to do their own work at home while supervising them too! They have talked about their initial struggles to get back into school routines but feel everything has worked out well. They are certainly enjoying social interaction and being back in the classroom. In response, we will continue to adapt to meet the needs of all our children.

Your children have been amazing; they have shown great adaptability and resilience and have adjusted so well. They have sometimes needed a little support in being in such close proximity as each other once more; re-adjusting to large groups and managing the stamina of the school day. However, it has only been such a short time and this progress will undoubtedly continue.

Children are a little tired now and are ready for a refresh and hopefully some brighter weather. There has been one or two illnesses around too, which often happens in September when children come together again so it is all understandable.

We know the Covid journey is not over yet and face each day with a little trepidation in keeping all our wheels moving but it does feel like a step forward and we look forward to building on this strong start next term.

Thank you for your continued support

Clare Berryman

Headteacher