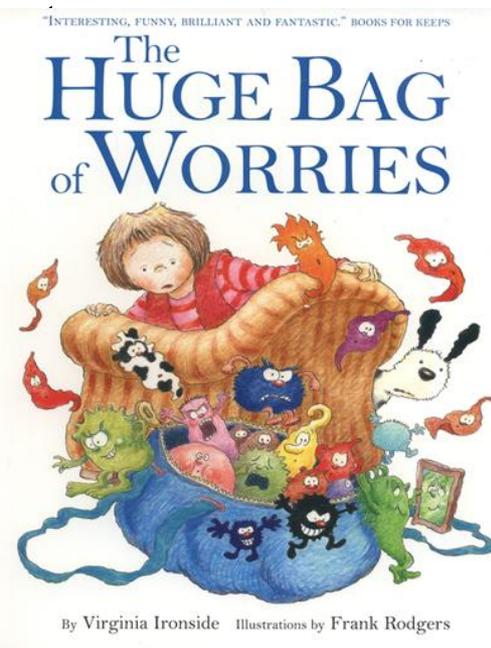


The Owl - May 2020

Way back when in September, one of the first of my favourite stories which I shared with the children was 'The Huge Bag of Worries' by Virginia Ironside. If you are not familiar with it, we meet a small girl with a multitude of worries which are dragged around in a ever growing bag. This is until, a kindly neighbour notices the girl's emotions and helps her to sort her worries depending on size, who it belonged to and how it could be sorted.



Of course in September, this was a way to share that we were all a bit worried about starting a new school year or in some cases a new school! Now, we are not far from the end of the school year but in the middle of what has become an extraordinary year with the bag growing again every day. We have worries bombarding us at the moment at what sometimes feels like a rapid rate! With the possibility of further change in June, while we are so excited and thrilled at the prospect of seeing more of our children back in school, we are also constantly thinking of new things to consider when planning for this. That bag of worries is spinning as well as filling! However, we are literally working day and night and some weekends too; to ensure that those returning will do so as safely as possible.

I am also very mindful that it is not just those children and families returning to school who will have worries. The children who sadly can't come back just yet will have their own worries too! Also, those who are moving on to new schools, and what about those who will be arriving brand new with us in September? They will have the usual worries of change that we started with in September, on top of the worries around having had our lives turned upside down! Phew!

While at times it all feels a bit too much, we will get through this and get through it together. Although we don't want to give our worries to someone else to deal with (they have enough of their own) it is true that a problem shared is a problem halved. Remember to ask each other how you are and don't be afraid to say: "You know what - not great today!" By talking about it and sharing, the worry may not feel as bad and chances are the person who asked you will say, "Me too!"

Keeping talking, sharing and watching out for each other.

Very best wishes,



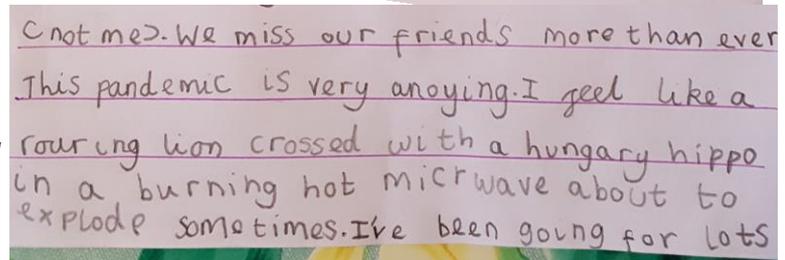
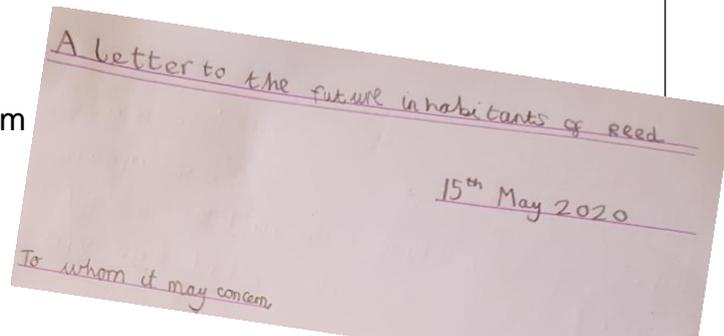
Values in Action

While the children have had Home School rather than Reed School, we have been so proud of the **resilience** they have all shown. The hard work the teachers have put in to planning activities which can be done at home has been rewarded by the responses we have had from the children and their families. If you haven't already, do have a look at the photographs we are sharing on our school website which children have sent to us and make our day when we see them! There has been cooking, crafting, modelling, calculating, writing, reading, recording, experimenting, debating, competing, singing, exercising and more! A huge well done to all who have engaged so brilliantly with Home School.

I would like to share with you how Molly A has felt about staying at home with an extract from her letter to share with a future inhabitant of her house.

I could not have summed it up better myself and I am sure her words resonate with you! The full letter is on our website. Thank you Molly!

We miss our friends and family more than ever. This pandemic is very annoying. I feel like a roaring lion crossed with a hungry hippo in a burning hot microwave about to explode sometimes!



Mathletics

You can print out the certificates at home, but for now, I will continue to add house points to match the number of certificates you have achieved. Thank you Mrs Rozier for keeping an eye on our progress.

Bronze

Sophie E x 2

Sophia L x 2

Frankie

Felix x 2

Harry

Jesse

Isabelle

Well done to all of you!

Silver

Sophie E

Frankie

Harry

Gold

Harry



Competition winners...

Thank you to those of you who took part in my competition to recognise close up pictures of items around the school. Well done to the following children who got their correct answers to me first.

1st place: Harry E (5 House points)

Not to be outdone by....

2nd place: Sophie E (3 House points)

Not to be outdone by....

You guessed it...

3rd place Olivia E (2 House points)

You've got to be in it to win it!

Good news for Tawny Owls!

Paint a pebble

If you live in Reed, you may well have seen our efforts to brighten up your daily stroll around the village. Our rainbows to thank the NHS and keyworkers are still looking fabulous and we adorned the front of the school with bunting to mark VE Day.

My family have also been inspired by beautifully painted stones being spotted around our village. I know that there are stones in some other places like Buntingford (the Eeles family showed me) where they are attempting a snake of stones. They thought that perhaps you might like to paint a stone or two and lay them along the side of the school in Reed when some of you return. People out on their walks really do love spotting them. I keep wondering why there are people standing looking at my house until I remember the painted pebbles on our window sill!



A message from our Chair of Governors

It has been a very different world over the last couple of months and our whole school community has certainly felt the impact. 'Schoolation', as I have seen it called, has tested most of our resilience and called for greater independence. Huge congratulations to you and your children for adapting, at such short notice, to a new way of schooling as part of their learning journey.

The next part of that journey will be the phased re-opening of the school. Mrs Wittich and staff have put in a tremendous amount of work to follow government guidelines. The changes that have been made will feel like a very different school in some ways but the ethos of 'Learning Together, Learning For Life' remains and couldn't be more important during this time as we all work our way through these changes. Please do contact the school if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns.

Thank you all for your continued support and I hope you have a restful half term.

Kelly Liebenberg

Supporting mental health and wellbeing

Jigsaw



As you know, the children have enjoyed and benefitted from our new Personal, Social and Health Education scheme: Jigsaw. All of the children love the Jigsaw friends. At the moment though it could be their friend Jerry Cat who could be useful. The children are used to using Jerry Cat whose paws remind us to pause and enjoy some calm time or 'pause points'. In school we use a chime to calm and pause. By using Pause Points we can practise our breathing or imagine calm pictures in our heads. Ask your child to imagine them using Calm Me like when we are in school, to help them to spend time thinking about how they are feeling.

Can they picture in their heads the Calm Me Time working and making them feel better and calming the BIG emotions down? We will be thinking carefully about the children, staff and families at school and home and planning a series of activities to support the wellbeing of all of us. We will be using our Jigsaw techniques and a variety of other wonderful ideas to ensure we share how we are feeling and understand our emotions during these extraordinary times. There will be activities and links to organisations which could be of use to you shared soon.



Hertfordshire Educational Psychology Service are creating a resource to help schools support the wellbeing of children and families in the return to school. To make sure this is matching the needs of parents, they would like to hear about any concerns you have and the support you would be interested in receiving.

The survey should take less than 5 minutes to complete and can be accessed by the following link: <https://app.sli.do/event/19wyw5z8>

And finally...

Keep looking at our communications which I know are numerous but as promised, as soon as we receive updates or make decisions you will be informed.

If you have any questions or queries do get in touch.

Please remember sun hats and sun cream to be applied at home on Your return to school – whenever that may be.

Take care and we hope to see more of you soon!

