

# NEWSLINE

March 2020  
Issue 8



The diary of a school that is closed but still open. Contributions from members of our wonderful community. Keep them coming. With thanks.

## DAY 3 Wednesday 25th March

Only 8 pupils today. But they had a great day, starting with Joe Wicks. What a star he is.



Received this lovely email from a parent. Her views of the school are even more poignant because she had a less than happy time when she was in primary school.

*"Our school community is a special one and it is made that way because of the uniquely understanding and practical approach all the staff have. It's underpinned by a warmth and genuine kindness that permeates the entire school. It was clear as a bell from the first day in nursery when I was allowed to sit with my child on my knee so she could see others play when she was too frightened to leave my side, so others could come up and say hello."...*

*"That kind of humanity is so refreshing when so many tired individuals put barriers and say no. You really do choose what's kindest and best for the children. I want to impress on you all how I value and recognise from so deeply in my heart how you all have such deep and genuine humanity and that you take the children we love and you give your all in a wickedly intense environment and respond so professionally. I will carry deep inside the pain I took as a child to stand up to authority when you know it's wrong, to struggle to fight for your ideals and the good of the whole even though they can't recognise it and to suffer as a result from those same people you are trying to help. North fights to defend its ideals in the same way. What happened to me couldn't happen at North. Please send our love, and understand how I appreciate your attitude on such a deep and personal level, to all of you staff because a teacher stays in your mind for life- the good ones, the bad ones, the people that are in your second home."* Thank you, C.

## DAY 4 Thursday 26th March

12 today. A 50% surge!

Where would we be without the wisdom of our grandparents? Please spare a thought for them as the vast majority are not able to see their grandchildren or their children at the present time. And here is a lovely idea from Sam and Jessica's granddad.

### Wash your hands to "Twinkle Star"

*"With the importance of washing hands regularly to help combat the spread of coronavirus, it has been suggested that a much better way to time the 20 seconds – as per the hygiene importance of a thorough wash – is not singing "Happy Birthday to you" but rather "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" instead!*

*Let's get the whole nation singing the nursery rhyme which started out here in Colchester, in 1806, as a children's poem.*

*The suggestion that "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" should be sung to register the 20 seconds required when washing one's hands was made to me by history graduate Steven Bishop who has been working in the University's Day Nursery to help fund his PhD history studies at the University of Essex*

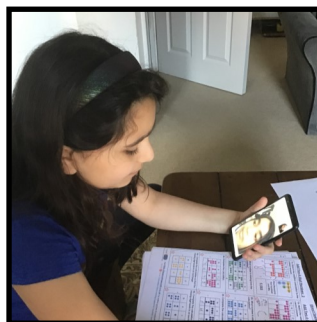
*Mr Bishop explained that youngsters were confused by singing "Happy Birthday" when it was not their birthday, nor anyone else's, and he realised that singing "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" was much better accepted and appreciated.*

*Knowing that I have been fund-raising for a statue of the person who wrote the poem – Jane Taylor and of her sister Ann who also wrote children's poems – he contacted me to suggest that the nursery rhyme made a much better way of promoting washing our hands for 20 seconds.*

*It is arguably the World's best known nursery rhyme. The children's poem written by Jane Taylor comprised five verses. Years later – by whom it is not known, nor when or why – the first verse of her poem was put to an existing French folk tune.*

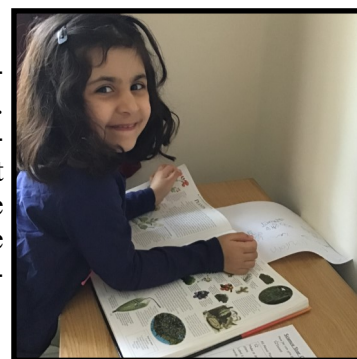
*The Taylor family lived in West Stockwell Street."*

Thanks SBR.



Asiya(4S), Afrin (4HR) and Sana (1B) want to say a BIG hello to their teachers, LSAs and friends. They are truly making the best out of a challenging situation. Asiya and Afrin are

doing their home learning together by video. Sana is using an encyclopedia to learn about plants for her science home learning. "We miss everyone!!" Sending good wishes to all.



“Everyone is feeling extremely anxious and concerned about the weeks ahead and making plans to fill your children’s time. You may have high hopes for hours of learning including online activities, science experiments and book reviews. In many ways it is good to have a timetable to maintain normality, but these are not normal times. Children are confused, anxious and upset even though some may initially celebrate no school! Their reality is now not seeing their friends or running off energy at playtime or sharing stories of their weekend. A large proportion of your time will be spent comforting and reassuring your children. You can bake, play board games, race around the garden, learn to juggle, explore new topics on the internet or even just snuggle under a blanket on the sofa watching films. If I can leave you with a thought before the home schooling adventure begins, it is that the happiness and security of your children is far more important than their academic progress. The weeks ahead will have an impact on all of us, aim to do something uplifting which brings optimism so that your children will remember positive family time rather than fear and anxiety.”

### Keeping in touch whilst the school is “closed”.

Whilst your children are not at school please remember the following:

Email or ring the school if you need advice on parenting. We will endeavour to respond as soon as we can.

In a crisis ring:

NSPCC 0808 800 5000  
Family Operations Hub 0345 603 7627

If you have money/housing worries contact Colchester Borough Council 01206 282222.

If you need help with food contact the school to get a virtual foodbank voucher.

School Nurse. Tracy MacDougall, the school nurse will be keeping in touch with some families.

Family Support Worker, Amanda Rowe, will no longer be doing home visits but will support families over the phone.

Dear Families of North,  
Be creative!  
If you have any instrument - play it,  
Write a song - sing it,  
It doesn't matter if you think you are able to or not.  
Remember this:  
“When you pick up that instrument,  
When you make up that song,  
When you then get your family to sing along, others listen whenever they can, You will have created a thing that is new, And the world will be happier, all because of you.”  
I look forward to hearing all the beautiful music that I know you can all create when we are all back together again.  
Stay Safe

Mr Bosch

### Achieve a Balance

The BBC are bringing out lots of new educational programmes for children.

The National Literacy Trust are putting ideas for families on their website

Year 6s are writing and illustrating postcards to send to people who live alone in retirement and care homes. There are a number websites that are promoting this now.

### Mix up home learning with fun things to do together

### EXERCISE & GET LOTS OF FRESH AIR

#### BAKE

LEARN A NEW SKILL TOGETHER— YOUTUBE IS GREAT FOR DIY GUIDES

Get the children to watch their favourite DVD films with the sound down and subtitles on and get them to read in the voice of the characters!

#### YOGA

The children in school.

Their teacher, Naomi

could teach you. Many do it

Davies, will also put

**COMING SOON**

### TERM DATES

Mon 7th September 2020

First day of new school year

Mon 7th September 2020

Year 6 Residential to Weymouth

### GARDENING