

Good afternoon everyone,

Well what a strange, but lovely week it has been! On Monday, all the staff came back to school and prepared all the classrooms and resources for the children who were coming back. It was so lovely to see everyone again. On Tuesday we welcomed back 42 children from Reception, Year 1, Year 6 and Key Worker children and they all were all absolutely fantastic.

Yes, the classrooms look a little different, with children spaced out sitting at their own desks with their own resources, but we all soon adjusted. A wide range of activities have been planned, including music lessons with Mr Foster and PE lessons with Miss Dowler, which all the children have really enjoyed.

It was almost as if Mother Nature, knew we have started to go back to school, as on the second day it poured it down and those memories of doing the school run in the rain came flooding back to many parents.

Thank you so much to everyone for working closely with us to ensure that the phased re-opening of school as has been so successful and I appreciate how everyone is adjusting to the new drop off and collection times and walking around the school site following the new sign posted routes.

In terms of when a decision might be made regarding accepting any more children, is currently on hold. The risk assessment at present is based on the numbers of parents who responded to the survey. We are always following the latest Government guidance and if any decisions are made in the future for wider re-opening, I will, as I always have done, communicate this via Parent Hub.

We have all had a great first week back and as a treat for everyone we celebrated with a special visit from the ice cream man!



I hope if you have stayed at home that you have had a good week and kept busy. Please keep sending in your photos to your class email address, so that they teachers can see what you're up to and share these with the children in class. Watch out for the next year group newsletters, which will be out next Friday!

Take care,

Mrs Cook

## **BUSY LITTLE BEES .....**

Many of you are all still keeping busy at home, which is great to hear. Isla has written a beautiful acrostic poem, Erin and Isla have been very busy at home baking lots of delicious treats and Isla made an excellent sock puppet! Ally wrote letters to her friends to keep in touch with them and Lacey decided to raise money for the nurses at New Cross Hospital! By drawing rainbow pictures and asking for a small donation, she raised £290 and received a well deserved letter of thanks from the hospital!! Amazing!!



## **A FOND FAREWELL**

It is with a heavy heart that I have to let you all know that at the end of the school year, we will be saying goodbye to two wonderful teachers. Mrs Nicholls, who has worked at Amblecote for the last few years, has done many roles. She currently works in class 5/6F and in Reception and Key Stage 1. Mrs Nicholls has decided to retire and spend more time with her beautiful one-year-old granddaughter, Lilah. We will miss her greatly.

Mr Kendrick, who also has been an extremely valued member of our school, has decided to take a break from teaching. During his years with us, Mr Kendrick has taught in Reception, Key Stage 1 and Year 3. He has accompanied Year 6 on their annual residential trips, organised sports clubs across the school and led an extremely popular board games club! We have all been captivated by his reading assemblies throughout the years and I know that staff, children and parents alike will really miss him and his irreplaceable personality.

### **A message from Mr Kendrick:**

*I have been very fortunate to have spent the last six years of my teaching career at Amblecote. From my first day here as a supply teacher, I was astounded by both the children and staff. It is a school that cares, deeply.*

*It has therefore been a very hard decision to leave Amblecote and full time teaching. Mrs Cook has been a constant source of support and understanding throughout this difficult process. I have been privileged to have taught so many wonderful children, met fantastic families and been part of a truly special team here at Amblecote.*

*Thank you to everyone, parents and children alike, for making my time at Amblecote such a fantastic journey.*

**We had a wonderful letter of thanks from Hollycroft Nursing Home in Stourbridge, who received our card and letters from Year 6 at the very start of lockdown!**

To all of you wonderful girls and boys,

I am currently sat in our lounge with some of the ladies and gentlemen that have read your lovely cards.

Annie says, "Thank you so very much for your wonderful cards. They have brought tears to my eyes, but joy to my heart!"

Joy says, "Thank you so much for our lovely card! You really brightened up our day! We are keeping our spirits up by singing song and playing games. At the moment, I can see out into the garden, all the birds are flying around. I hope you're all coping ok. God bless you all! Thank you again!"

Hilda (who turned 100 on the 10th March!) says, "Thank you for giving us so much pleasure from reading your cards. I am missing my son, but our activities co-ordinator, Vickie, has been video calling him so that I can see him and know he's ok. She keeps us all very occupied by doing exercises to keep us active and plays games with us to keep our brains active. Some of us read your cards in the garden last week when the weather was warmer than today, but we still wrapped up in blankets because we feel the cold. It would be lovely to hear from you all again. Are you still going to school during lockdown? We still had to go during the war! Ha-ha! Stay safe my darlings! Keep washing your hands and behind your ears! Love Hilda"

Molly says, "Your cards made my day! It's lovely to think that children are so thoughtful. You have restored my faith in human nature after seeing those greedy people buying all that food and then wasting it. So for that I thank you. Lots of love, Molly"

Janice says, "I really appreciate you taking the time to write to us. You reminded us there is hope and we are not alone! Thank you! Love Janice. Take care.

Trevor says, "Well first of all, your handwriting was fantastic! I am very impressed! I really appreciate you sending them in. Look after yourselves! Stay home! Regards, Trevor"

Lynne says, "Best wishes and thank you to you all. My family have been waving through my window, as my bedroom is downstairs at the front. Your cards were perfect! Everything about them. They have really cheered us all up and I could see the time and effort you had put in to them. Stay safe, Lynne"

I would personally like to thank you all. You have put so much thought into your letters and your handwriting is superb!!

Our residents haven't had visitors for a few weeks now, so reading your cards or having me read to them, has given them all comfort and hope that there is light at the end of the tunnel.

Thank you!

Vickie, Activities Co-ordinator.

### VIRTUAL PRAISE

Here is a list of all of the children who have been praised this week by their class teachers! It is great to see the fabulous things that you have been up to:

Class	Name	Reason
RJ	Emma Hollie Lily	For great pulse and rhythm work using percussion instruments. For eating healthily at home. For working on her maths skills.
RP	Jack	For sleeping in a tent in his garden for the first time.
1M	Jackson Lily	For composing a convincing piece on the glockenspiel for the colour 'red'. For a brilliant effort at making a rainbow in a jar – Science doesn't always turn out as we expect it to!
1/2C	Alyvia Lara	For her wonderful chromatography. For her fantastic book mark.
2M	Holly Maisie	For her amazing 600-day streak on Doodle Maths! For being just one day behind Holly – but definitely in the Doodle Maths Hall of Fame!
3K	Michael	For superb singing in his music lesson with Mr Foster.
3/4S	Thomas & George Tegan	For their fabulous Egyptian projects. For making a fabulous skeleton puppet.
4H	Isla	For making the most of lockdown life – baking, learning, making bath bombs and sock puppets!
5B	Beth	For producing some fabulous writing, using super language and interesting phrases.
5/6F	All retuning	For returning back to school in such a mature and confident way.
6P	Year 6 Maia & Lilly	For great ukulele playing of 'You're the one that I want' from Grease. For producing some brilliant Andy Goldsworthy natural art work.



### BIRTHDAY SHOUT OUTS

We are sending lots of happy birthday wishes to everyone who have had a birthday since the last newsletter and are celebrating this week or in the next coming weeks!



**Happy Birthday to .....**

Mrs Rhodes, Lillian, Rosemary, Tyler, Jack G, Tory, Ryley, Lilia, Ashlee, Erin, Lily H, Esme, Madeleine, Nicholas, Olivia S, Vivek and Lacey

### SAFEGUARDING AT AMBLECOTE

**Even though we are not all at school at the moment, we don't stop caring about you all.**

If there is any point when you feel that you might need some help, advice, or just someone to talk to, please email: [info@amblecote.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:info@amblecote.dudley.sch.uk). This email is checked regularly throughout the day and someone will get back to you.

Many teachers have also been refreshing their knowledge on bereavement and how we can support our school community during difficult times. If there is anything that we can do as school to help you or your family, or you want to inform us of your family circumstances, so that we can support your child, please email:

[info@amblecote.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:info@amblecote.dudley.sch.uk) and a member of staff will contact you.

Even whilst we are all away from school, it is important if you have any concerns about the safety or well-being of a child to call the children's services referral and advice service on **0300 555 0050** during office hours (9am - 5pm), contact the Emergency Duty Team on **0300 555 8574** (out of hours).