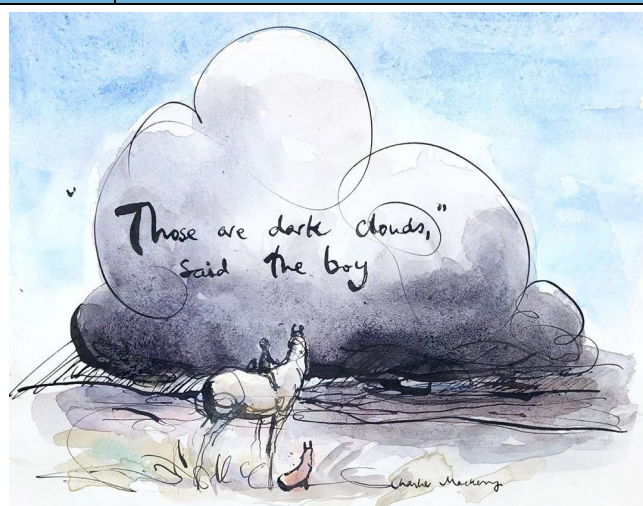


We have made it to half term and what an incredibly long six weeks it has been! This time last year, our February 2020 half term was the last break from school in more 'normal' times. For many of you this will have meant trips out, children having play dates with their friends, sleep overs, parties and many more enjoyable things. My little boy's birthday always falls in the February half term so I remember his football party with all his classmates which this year will not be possible. Like us, our children have missed out on so much and this half term is going to be very different to the last. I know, if you are anything like me, the positivity is starting to wear thin and we are just glad to get through a day at a time. The days are long when we can't do the things we want to or enjoy and we are juggling the demands of home schooling alongside work commitments and other responsibilities. It's all just so hard!

There was one day this week where I had sat behind a screen for hours in meetings about Public Health and Risk Assessments that I had to pinch myself and remember that I am actually a Headteacher and work with children. So, I went down to Year 2 (safely from a distance) and the children showed me the amazing Kenyan jewellery designs they had been creating. Their enthusiasm and pride in their work made me smile. Whilst in there we saw the flutters of snow beginning to fall outside and the excitement built as we hoped it would 'stick'. Unfortunately, the snow didn't stick but the children's awe and wonder in that moment was magical to observe and it reminded me again that I have the best job in the world! It showed me that when we feel fed up we need to find the moments of 'magic' in our wonderful children because we still have so much to be grateful for.

Next week, enjoy a SEESAW and Zoom free half term and have a good rest so you're all ready for 22<sup>nd</sup> February when we will start all over again! We still have no news on whether schools will officially open on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March but we really hope that we will. As soon as we know, we will immediately get in touch with you.

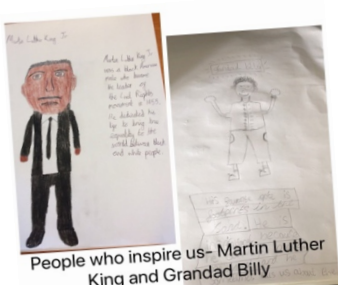


"Yes, but they will move on,"  
said the horse, "the blue  
sky above never leaves."

## **DATES for after Half Term**

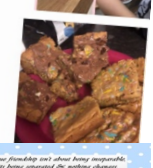
**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February – School Opens for children of critical workers & Home Learning starts again**

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March – World Book Day – Information has been sent about this**



Thank you to all our children and parents for your perseverance and hard work with home learning this term. Well done to all the children in school too who have worked just as hard. Engagement with online learning has remained very

high all half term with only a handful of children not accessing daily work. It is a real treat for me to look at the children's work on SEESAW. Please have a well-deserved rest next week and hopefully the sun will shine so we can enjoy some fresh air.



Thank you to everyone who collected their Home Learning Packs today. You now have everything you need for home learning starting Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

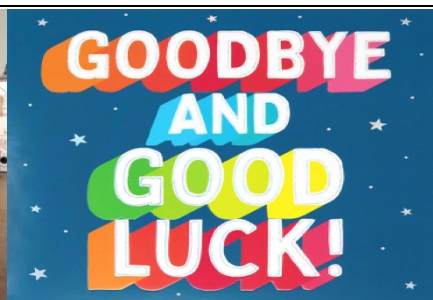


We hope you have found the parent/teacher phone calls informative and useful over the last two weeks. Please message or telephone school if you have any questions, concerns or worries.



Mrs Young officially starts her Maternity Leave straight after half term. We are going to miss her so much over the next few months but we know she will have far more important things on her mind! She hasn't given herself much chance to put her feet up before her new bundle of joy arrives but we hope she manages some rest. She definitely deserves it! In order to keep Mrs Young as safe as possible, she has been working from home this term but everyone in Year 5 will be aware she still has not stopped. Mrs Bennison and I did a little doorstep visit yesterday to pass on all our best wishes for the exciting time ahead!

After 15 years of working as our school cook, Debbie is leaving St Michael and All Angels! She has served many dinners and seen many changes over the years and our school dining room won't be quite the same without her. We wish her lots of luck as she moves onto pastures new!



Yesterday Pope Francis marked the 29<sup>th</sup> World Day of the Sick. Pope Francis urged people to join in with the annual day of devotion for the sick and those that care for them. Never has this day been so important as we remember the hundreds of thousands of people in the world suffering as a direct result of the Corona Virus. Pope Francis says that the annual day "is an opportunity to devote special attention to the sick and to those who provide them with assistance and care both in hospitals and within families and communities." Jesus was always compassionate towards those who were sick and we see this in Sunday's Gospel when he heals the leper who comes to him and asks for help. Lepers were marginalised in society at that time and Jesus always felt sorry for all those who were left out and cared about everyone.

Today the people who care for the sick every day in our hospitals and care homes are doing the most amazing job but we have also seen so many examples of 'care' and 'compassion' being shown towards others by many

people over the last 12 months and this includes the children in our school who we are very proud of.

Please remember to keep up to date with information on our school website. The 'Covid19' and 'Home Learning' pages have all the latest advice, letters and information.

A final THANK YOU of the week to everyone who helps make our school community so great.

Thank you to the staff who have worked tirelessly to provide a good education for the children in school and home.

Thank you to our school Governors who have met with me most weeks during lockdown to offer support and guidance.

Thank you to you our parents for your support, kind messages and feedback.

But most of all, thank you to the children of our amazing school who give us all a reason to smile. We will all be together again very soon I hope!



Stay safe and enjoy the break this week, Mrs Ralph