

# “Hermes”

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

Summer Term

Issue No. 528

Dear Parents

Isn't it strange how ideas and thoughts permeate through your subconscious without you being fully aware?

Here's an example to explain more clearly what I mean.

Music often accompanies my late night forays into the editorial highlights of the school week and whilst “shuffling” through my very antiquated iTunes list, Ian Dury and the Blockheads drifted into ear shot. Serendipity or pure coincidence? You make your own mind up.

Dury contracted polio at the age of seven, resulting in the partial paralysis of his left leg, shoulder and arm. I had kind of remembered this whilst not actually thinking about the topic at all. Anyway, polio is a viral infection thankfully now relatively rare due to an effective vaccination being found. Hmmn!

Overcoming his disability and surviving a tough time at school, Dury was later to welcome in new wave music and cause his fair share of mayhem along the way too.

The track that was playing was, “Reasons to be Cheerful, Part 3”.

The track carries a Mary Whitehouse warning by the way. It's not entirely suitable family listening just in case you thought of adding it to your “long journey” playlist, but it's a brilliant bit of music nevertheless.

Inspired by a near fatal accident, ostensibly this track is a “shopping list” of ways in which you can find happiness. Dury's own thoughts included porridge for breakfast, generosity and politeness, yellow socks and carrot juice, Elvis Presley, the National Health Service and others not quite so suitable for print.

It's worth a play tonight if you feel the need for a blast from the past, perhaps accompanied by the even better, “Hit me with your rhythm stick!”

You smug “thirty somethings” out there looking blank, better think twice about emailing me to say your parents enjoyed his music.

Amidst the gloom and doom, let's write our own shopping list this afternoon as we head into half term.

Isn't Dorset beautiful and shouldn't we be grateful that we live in such an inspiring place? In particular, we are surround by a wonderful natural world with few

parallels around the UK, except perhaps for the West Coast of Scotland and parts of Northumberland and of course the Yorkshire Dales!

Chris H and his team enjoyed a few peaceful hours out at sea this week and were joined by a pod of dolphins. Quite who is watching who is never clear when you meet a dolphin? Judging from the photograph you could easily think they were near Portofino or Santa Margarita.

They are no doubt close to shore hunting the shoals of mackerel that can be found off Chesil Beach at this time of year. Another “pescator” in the shape of young Arthur F was engaged in a similar pursuit at a nearby location. He was clearly successful. A fresh mackerel grilled quickly on a bbq is one of the world's tastiest treats. Tight lines, Arthur!



Alex B has seen the fruits of his labour come to fruition as he has installed his master craftsman bird box. Let's hope a family of blue tits decide it will make a fabulous home for a second brood.



On Wednesday evening I sat on a river bank, watched a dog fox hunting the hedgerow, saw the flashing blue flanks of a kingfisher and carefully observed numerous mayfly sailing down a pristine chalk stream. I even managed to fool a fish into thinking my own imitation was a natural. There are slowworms in my garden and a young hedgehog is feasting on slugs and snails on an evening, saving my favourite Hostas from their deadly enemy. My strawberries will provide their first punnet of the year in the morning.



Anyway, that was Reasons to be Cheerful, Part 1.

Reasons to be Cheerful, Part 2 is that Dorset has remained one of the least affected parts of the country with respect to the impact of Covid 19. We have remained remarkably resilient as a community. I'm touching every piece of timber in sight as I type this!



We have provided an essential service to key worker children and done our very best to bridge the gap between school and home.

All our teams in school deserve a very well-earned break next week as they have pushed themselves to the limit and often beyond. Not a single person has taken a single day of absence during this period! On your behalf I say a very big thank you to them all and this includes our governing body who have been a guiding light and pillar of support throughout.

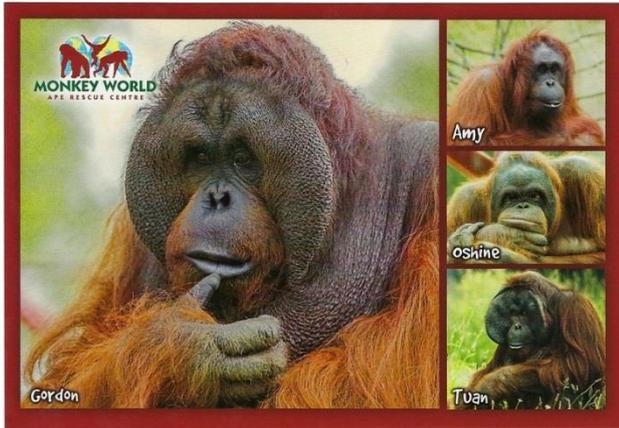
One section of our team who do not always get a regular mention in Hermes are the front of house, catering, cleaning and ground staff. I am certain that one of the reasons we have avoided outbreaks in school is that they have been beavering away behind the scenes to make sure the school meets all the standards set for them. Providing lunch in particular has been a logistical headache and we have constantly tweaked our procedures as more information comes to light. They have had the patience of saints.

Reasons to be Cheerful Part 3 is that we are hastily planning for the return to school of children in the Foundation stage, Form 1 and Form 6.

Whether you think these age groups are the best to return or not, at least another thirty children will benefit from coming back to school. This said, many of you have made a huge difference with your skilled home learning and you deserve a big share of the congratulations.

If you are lucky enough to be in this cohort, please do remember that the traffic lights are still on amber and we have not yet been given the green light. We may not get this until May 28<sup>th</sup> though I will keep in close contact with you on this matter. Be prepared for a government about turn!





Form 3 and 4 are sadly not in this cohort but they do deserve some “air play” today for their fundraising efforts. Mrs King emailed me to say they raised an amazing total of £541 which has enabled them to sponsor not one but two orang-utan. When we return to some sort of normality I am certain they will be visiting Tuan and Oshine. Let’s hope it is sooner rather than later!

When we return after half term we will resume giving out house points and twinkly stars, albeit virtually. Mr Adams has asked form and subject teachers to give out virtual house points based on

how well they feel pupils have been maintaining their education against the backdrop of difficult circumstances. It won’t be an exact science but teachers have been able to reward the children in school and feedback from those learning at home. After collating all the data, he will be able to give pupils an individual tally on Seesaw and if they have reached a milestone they will get their corresponding badge:

House points/twinkly stars	Badge
50	Bronze
100	Silver
150	Gold
250	Headmaster’s Award

For those pupils who have earned their next badge they should expect something in the post in the next few days. Well done, you’ve earned it!

Mr Adams thanks all our pupils for their excellent work, to the parents for their superb support and the staff for being the best team in these trying times.

The overview sheets and the home school timetable for the week after half term will be sent home by Mrs Sewed on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May. I would like to congratulate Mrs Sewed and her home learning team for the amazing job they have been doing. They have all upskilled so quickly and are constantly looking for new ways to stimulate learning from afar.

Last week’s Think asked, “Do ideas come from the inside or outside?”

The winner was a very thoughtful young Sloley who noted:

“Well both. If you find an object or someone says something that gives you an idea, then you can think about it further and come up with a new idea or way of looking at something. But sometimes your imagination just sparks up on its own and invents something new. It doesn’t matter how it happens, both can be brilliant.”

Well done, Felix. I believe a reward is winging its way to you.

**Form 6 18<sup>th</sup> May - Week 5**  
Seesaw

- Mathematics:** MyMaths.com, White Rose Maths, 2:6, 4:12. Mon: Ratio and fractions; Tues: My Maths online & mental maths books; Wed: Introducing the ratio symbol; Thur: Problem solving challenge plus mental maths book or KS2 book; Fri: Hangouts Meet live quiz 11am meeting code: mathschat
- PE:** THE BODYCOACH TV, Joe Wicks at 9.00-9.30, PE Challenge on Seesaw
- PSHCE:** Things I love on Seesaw
- English:** Genre focus: Instructions; Comprehension work based on setting descriptions; identifying key features; spelling and punctuation practice. All lessons will be set on Seesaw. Please keep up daily private reading practice and email reviews (via school email) to Mrs Fernley: dfernley@sunninghill.dorset.sch.uk
- French:** Become the new French Joe Wicks and learn French commands by completing Seesaw activities.
- Science:** Observe the natural environment and create fact files about what you see.
- History Focus:** Travel back in time evidence task. Norman Conquest word puzzles. All activities on Seesaw.
- Computing:** TYNKER, The Coding Community Platform. Login to try out the coding tutorials. Use your normal school username and the password is tynker. https://www.tynker.com/#/login
- Music and Drama:** Appreciating Music- Star Wars Drama focus- Who was William Shakespeare? Any questions? Google Meet Thurs 1.30-2pm code: tudchat
- Art:** Main menu, Sculpture of the human form, Side plate, Make worry dolls. All activities on Seesaw.

Please see the next Think below:"  
Is it natural to be greedy? If yes, does that make being greedy ok?"  
Ouch, get your grey matter around that!

Back in school, Ms Thomasson has been inspiring us all with her excellent videos and her amazing support of learning right across the school. Claire seems to be omnipresent at the moment. I am certain she may have been cloned.

On top of her teaching in the classroom she is also a bit of an expert on the sports field. In the picture you will see a dynamic duo of Mrs Baker and Mrs Stone enjoying a quiet and creative afternoon under a warming sky and a gentle breeze.



Mr Stazicker has been making Guatemalan Worry Dolls with the senior children this week. The theory is that you share your worry with your doll and place the doll under your pillow on an evening and your problems cease to exist. Now that sounds like a good idea!

Finally I would like to pay a quiet tribute to Ben and Tymon before I sign off. In the absence of their best buddies they have had to be the elder statesmen of the school, on their own this term. They are two of the most talented yet unassuming and modest young men you could ever wish to meet. I salute them both!



Well, that's it for this half term. A well-earned restful few days lie ahead for us all.

My half term break will be full of dog sitting, trying to persuade my "mucker" not to spend all of her time messing about with Jo's pups and to think about doing a bit of schooling with me.

They seem to love each other despite the obvious size and age difference. At least it has given the ever patient Ivy a bit of a breather.



Make the very most of the time with your families and find lots of Reasons to be Cheerful part 4. Save a photo for publication in the first Hermes back after half term.

Mr Thorpe