

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our May newsletter. We hope you are safe and well. School is eerily silent but the school community is buzzing on social media and on Class Dojo. Thank you for being so brilliant, resilient and supportive in these difficult circumstances. We are here to support you in whatever way we can. The staff team are working hard to keep in touch with as many of you as possible. However, if you need to contact us for any reason please use the [admin@simonside.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:admin@simonside.newcastle.sch.uk) email and we'll ring you back (we can't take calls in the school office). Where possible, class teachers are communicating via Class Dojo – please log into this if you haven't already done so. There are a wealth of resources and regular messaging.

### Support

We know that many parents may find themselves struggling at this time supporting children's learning, managing behaviour, coping with anxiety and isolation and, for many, trying to juggle working from home as well.

Action for Children has rolled out a digital parenting support offer in Newcastle, having already run it in various parts of the country over the last 2 years.

*'Action for Children is offering free online parenting support for families with children aged 0-19. You can ask us for help on all sorts of things – from how to keep your children entertained at home, to how to handle difficult behaviour, to how to manage stress and anxiety at this challenging time.*

*Head to*

*<https://www.parents.actionforchildren.org.uk/> to read our advice and useful resources, or talk directly to a parenting coach via our confidential 1-1 live chat. Whatever you need, Action for Children are here to listen and support you.'*

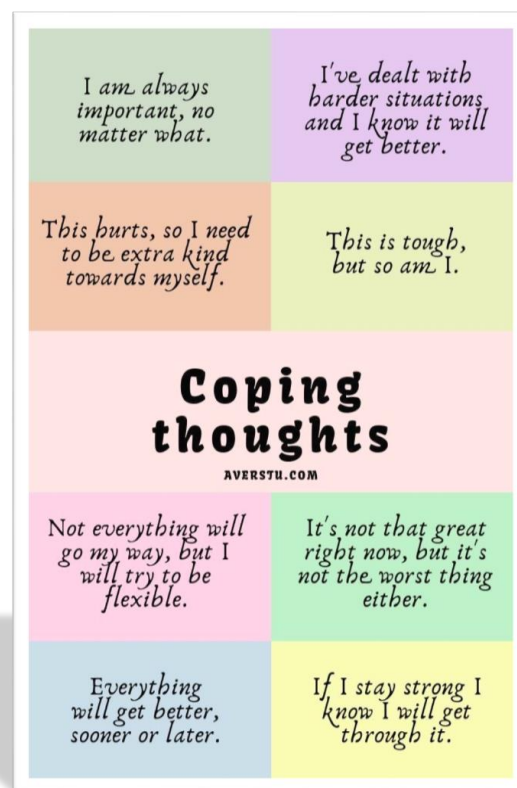
### Rights Respecting School




Please have a look at the RRSa page on the school website.

[https://www.simonside.newcastle.sch.uk/website/rights\\_respecting\\_school\\_award/474240](https://www.simonside.newcastle.sch.uk/website/rights_respecting_school_award/474240)

Each week Miss Brennan is uploading an article of the week with some suggested activities for the children to try at home. It would be great if you could upload their work to Classdojo. Our ultimate aim is to compile a mini film each week based on what has been uploaded on Classdojo.



## Home Learning

We're so proud of all our children for trying so hard with home learning. It has been lovely chatting to children about what they've been learning when we've been doing our lunch deliveries. We're loving all the art work in the windows and on the pavements! Remember that it's absolutely normal to have 'off days'! Your child's motivation to home learn may peak and trough – this is normal too. We certainly don't want to add any stress to families at this difficult time. If home learning becomes tricky at any stage, please just focus on reading; them reading to you, or you reading to them. Reading is the key to success and is at the heart of our curriculum. 



## ACE

Try and achieve your **ACE** goals each day:

**Achieve** ~ Can you do something that will give you a sense of achievement?

**Connect** ~ Can you connect with people/have a conversation?

**Enjoy** ~ Can you do something that you will enjoy?

## Making Music

On the following website you will find information on a project called 'Local Heroes' through which children as young as Nursery can access ideas for online music learning. There is a different musical style each week and the activities look really accessible. You could upload on to class dojo any photos or videos of music making.

<https://www.musicpartnershipnorthnewcastle.co.uk/website>



## Social Distancing

We'd like to say a massive 'thank you' to the children for playing their part in following the government's advice on social distancing and staying at home. We appreciate how hard this must be – especially when the sun is shining. ***We have had a few reports of some children starting to play out on the estate and visiting each other in their homes.*** **Please stay strong** and keep everyone safe by continuing to follow the rules:

**What is a 'reasonable excuse' to go out?**

**The measures say people should go out as little as possible** and only leave home if they have a **"reasonable excuse"**. This includes:

- Exercise - alone, or with members of your household
- Shopping for basic necessities
- Any medical need, or providing care for a vulnerable person
- Travel to or from work, but only when you cannot work from home

# Happy Birthday to you!



Happy Birthday to all the children who have had a birthday since the Easter Holidays:

**Olivia C Year 6, Delphie Year 6, Jayden Year 2, Riley K Year 2, Adam N Year 1, Limar Year 1**

We hope you all managed to have a lovely day.

## New School Build

Thank you to everybody who contributed a 'Thank you' picture for the builders building our lovely brand new school. The response was overwhelming and shows how amazing our school community is. Robertsons Construction will display these outside the school gates shortly.



Take care everyone and stay safe.



Yours sincerely,

*Mrs Thompson and Mrs Hills*