



“Enriching generations to serve and flourish.”

## Ditton Junior Newsletter – 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

First off, **Happy New Year**, although one of those three words doesn't quite feel right does it? Thank you once more for your uplifting feedback last term regarding all communication from school. We need to thank you again for the tremendous sacrifices you are making. We have worked very hard at short notice to get all our ducks in a row especially with remote home learning. This offer will continue to be developed by the team as we share ideas and new things coming online daily. Your feedback will help us tailor that. Just ask. Use the year group or school office emails to keep us informed. I will also try to add useful links where I find them but bear in mind I am not endorsing them just suggesting you have a look, and we don't want to overburden you.



< **Stone Age day** in Year 3. Bonfires in classrooms!

**RESILIENCE or perseverance** (a key school value) is going to be needed in buckets by all of us, especially home learners – getting on to home learning, sticking at it etc. There's a useful link here to Kent resilience hub for you. <https://kentresiliencehub.org.uk/resources/resilience-webinar-for-parents>. We will be mindful that children will need downtime, resilience, and wellbeing and health support so we will add to our offer over the term with further links, and we will keep you informed as we develop our methods for tracking pupil progress. We wait to see what the **BBC** will offer but this is a step I have been calling for and is sure to help parents. If you have any concerns about your child let us know, but a lot of our work last week and this is to explore how to keep in touch with all children. As many of you so kindly have said it is hard but we are all facing such challenges aren't we?

At risk of patronising – don't forget that a **great education is a balanced one**, you don't have to keep your child on it every hour of every day. They need downtime, reflection, exercise and play. That's how great minds grow. If you can get a full morning out of them, or afternoon, give yourself some space!

During this difficult time we will try to provide at least a single page news sheet update every week via myself and the office team.



**Thoughts from a Church school:**

**Jesus said - “I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.” (John 10:10)**

We don't seem to be having much 'life to the full' right now but we are, all of us, here for the children, and all of us can be lifted up by remembering that it is us who help each of them live life to the full and every day is a fresh opportunity for that. Stay safe.

Richard Sutton-Smith