



We have all had a really positive start to our Summer term at school; the staff and the children have really enjoyed being back together to continue to rebuild relationships and have a real focus on how we can all flourish as individuals and as a school family. We have been exploring our school vision, 'Flourishing together in the love of God, to live life in all its fullness' and what that means to us and what that looks like in practice in school. Our children are demonstrating and living out our vision daily.

This week children from Oak class have been leading Collective Worship – all about St George and the Christian Values that he demonstrated. They did an amazing job, as it was their first time and on teams – we are very proud. Our older children will continue to lead worship each week with support and will then support our younger children to do the same.

Thank you all for your attendance to parent's and carer's evening, staff spoke positively about the opportunities to share with you how your child/children have settled in, how we are supporting your child/children where appropriate following remote learning, their progress across the curriculum as well as supporting their mental health and well-being. We hope you felt this was a valuable opportunity. Your feedback on parent's and carer's evening is hugely important to supporting your children and our continued school improvement. We really value your feedback and would appreciate you taking the time to complete a questionnaire. We will send a link to this early next week.

Take care, stay safe and have a lovely weekend.

With very best wishes,  
Mrs Gibbons



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### **Talk for Writing**

We have introduced Talk for writing in order to support our children's literacy skills. Talk for Writing was originally created by Pie Corbett and supported by Julia Strong and is powerful because it is based on the principles of how children learn. Talk for Writing enables children to imitate the key language they need for a particular topic orally before they try reading it and analysing it. Through fun activities to help them rehearse the tune of the language they need, followed by shared writing to show them how to craft their genre, children are helped to write in the same style. It works well right through from the Early Years up to year 6.

### **The Method**

Talk for Writing is powerful because it enables children to imitate the language they need for a particular topic orally before they begin reading and analysing it and then writing their own version. Pie Corbett gives a brief explanation below of the basic principles. It builds on three key stages:

- Stage 1 – Imitation
- Stage 2 – Innovation
- Stage 3 - Independent Application

### **Impact**

Since using the Talk for Writing process upon return after the Easter holidays the children have been so enthusiastic, interested and are showing a real excitement in their learning. We hope that this positive attitude to learning will continue and we will see rapid progress in children's writing across the whole school.



### **A message from Mrs Caroline Kilvington – Parent Governor.**

#### **Team Around the School.... A new trail blazing project for our children, staff and families!**

Over the last four months I have had the pleasure of working with Mrs Gibbons and Mrs Williamson alongside a new team who are wholly focussed on mental health and well-being. The team is made up of Senior Mental Health Occupational Therapists, Clinical Psychologists, Education Mental Health Practitioners and trainee Education Psychologists and Sutton C of E Primary has been lucky enough to be involved in their new project, Trailblazing Mental Health Support.

Mental Health and well being has never been more important, both adults and children have been through the most difficult twelve months, and the effects on our mental health may only just be starting to show. Our children have had uncertainty and changes, in and out of school, restricted from who they can spend time with and the places they can go. Understandably this has affected them in many different ways, and in school we want to ensure that we are aware of any worries – big or small – and how we can help the children overcome them, and how the teachers can build their resilience, self esteem and mental wellness so that any child coming in to school can feel safe, able to speak out and be supported, not only by their teachers but also amongst their class friends.

The project is also looking at supporting the staff and their well-being, ensuring that they are feeling positive and in a good place to work with and help our children, as well as generally mentally fit.

So – what has the school been doing? Mrs Gibbons and Mrs Williamson have been working together with the full school staff team to establish how the whole school is mentally and physically, how each class is managing and how each individual child is handling the return to school. Plans were put in place well before March to ensure school felt safe and welcoming and that the staff could be extra vigilant in looking out for any child experiencing anxiety or difficulties on their return.

The three weeks of Spring term were focussed around settling the children back in, building up relationships, encouraging independence, helping the younger ones especially find their feet again within the school, and lots of positive reassurances. To enable our children to flourish, the school needs to ensure they are happy and well as first priority.

Each day our children had a 30 minute mental health well being activity, along with a 30 minute physical well being activity. The children have been doing mindfulness activities and lots of sensory work, and in their daily collective worship they have been looking at kindness, helping others, respecting others and looking out for each other. The children have been exploring how they can flourish in different ways as an individual, and as a team, as well as building up the feeling of community within school, the 'togetherness' and what they need to feel safe in school. Each class has it's own 'worry monster' in the room, so for children unable to verbally share

worries, they can write them down and leave them with their worry monster to help take care of them. The worry monsters have all got a name, chosen by the children, and will remain in class to help out!

The project is set to continue with Mrs Gibbons, Mrs Williamson and myself, the professionals will remain in close contact after it finishes, and the children will have access to additional support from them if required, and this will be ongoing. The aim is to build Sutton in Craven C of E into a mentally fit school, where our children can learn to understand feelings and emotions, feel safe to express themselves and have the language to do so, and find support from friends and staff all around them.

The school has been really lucky to be involved in the project, and I wanted to share with you the fantastic things I've seen as a Governor that the staff have been implementing for our children's well-being. As a parent, it's lovely to know that mental health is a priority, and that all the children are being nurtured and supported in this way.

If you have any questions about the project, want to know more, or have anything you would like to chat about, please contact Mrs Gibbons, she will be happy to hear from you.

Caroline Kilvington  
Parent Governor





## MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM

Dear Parents & Carers,

Are you worried about your child's mental health?

We have dedicated **Mondays** to supporting you!  
If you would like to talk to one of the team, please contact 07525  
872287 on a **Monday** between **10am-4pm**.  
You will then get a call back from one of the team.

*Mental Health Support Team*

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To keep up-to-date with everything our team is up to,  
follow us on our Instagram and Twitter accounts. We  
post top-tips, motivation quotes and regular updates!

**@BDCFT\_MHST**

