

SHERINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Wyndcliff Road, Charlton, London, SE7 7JP

Telephone: (020) 8858 5497

Email: headteacher@sherington.greenwich.sch.uk

Web: www.sheringtonprimary.co.uk

Acting Headteacher: Amanda Burnell Acting Deputy: Dan O'Leary SBM: Susie Healy



Monday 25th May 2020

Good morning pupils, parents and carers,

As I hinted on Friday, this week we turn our attention to Arts Week 2020. By early April, I realised that our usual structure for this celebration would need to be rethought. It was obvious that the pandemic would not allow us to rehearse and perform in the manner to which we've become accustomed over the years. A new plan was needed. Over the course of the lockdown period, we have built and made new connections: with personal friends old and new; with each other in the school community; with hobbies and music and news and books and stories. We have made connections in new and wonderful ways and returned to connecting through the written word. Despite having many liberties taken from us, the one thing that has remained, and grown stronger, is our ability to remain connected. The unique situation that we find ourselves in needs to be recorded and saved and, as I said in one of my assemblies, this period is history in the making, and this year we will creatively record the details that reflect this time. Our projects are designed to be uplifting and everyone in the household is encouraged to take part. Our theme this year is 'Connection'.

Whilst researching the history of the school for our centenary back in 2007, it was discovered that the actor Daniel Day Lewis had attended Sherington. In his 2008 BAFTA winning speech, he talked about his early 'playground' – growing up in SE London and naming Sherington as being a part of that. His father, Cecil Day Lewis, had been poet laureate from 1968 to 1972. The connection between the Day Lewis family and Sherington sparked an idea and our first poet laureate, Kate Penny, was inaugurated in 2013. Each year since, during Arts Week, we crown our new poet laureate – who writes and performs their poetry at significant events in the school calendar. Alex Busari has been doing marvellous work in this role since last July. This year, we shall elect a new poet laureate; a worthy recipient for this esteemed position will be chosen after reading the **poetry** that you'll be asked to compose at home and submit to us at school. Mr Hinchliffe, our writing lead and year 6 teacher, will introduce the poetry writing tasks on Monday of next week. I'll say no more for now ...

Something else that's under wraps for now is the **music** element of Arts Week. Expect more on this from Ms Portman in due course.

A major part of our Arts Week performance is the **dance** sequences. Over a number of years, Wendy Steatham (our choreographer and dance coach) has led workshops for pupils and teachers at the start of June. We are excited to bring you an adapted version this year. Ms Steatham has filmed a series of dance lessons which will enable you to create, rehearse and perform your own dance at home. We'll be asking you to film your sequence, once ready, and we'll edit the submissions to create a film featuring all of our families dancing in their homes. I'll be sending out a link to the films which start tomorrow.

In the past, large art projects have been undertaken in school, led by artists who have worked with pupils to produce large scale installations that still adorn the building: the banners in the hall



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represent our centenary; the wicker mobiles in the same space were created in 2012 (when pupils from Sherington performed in the closing ceremony of the London Olympics). The banners that grace the Linnaeus Garden, the Creation Station, the exterior of the hall and the fence along Wyndcliff Road were all conceived and created as part of Arts Week. In recent years, pupils have worked on their own personal pieces of art, exhibited in the corridors and Creation Station. This year calls for a new approach and I’m delighted to be able to introduce it to you this morning.

Lockdown has prompted much creativity amongst people forced to remain in their own homes. One movement in particular caught my attention and forms the model for **your art work** for Arts Week. We are asking that you produce your own masterpiece in your home. However, there’s a connection to be made. We are asking you to recreate famous paintings in your own way. You might well have seen some already as there are many examples to be found in the internet. But before you go and search ... wait. I have some created by our teachers to show you as examples.



Look closely at the example above, what has been used to create the face and the stars? I expect you are wondering which of our teachers is wrapped in the bin bag, recreating Miro so wittily for lockdown. You’ll have to find the answer by taking a look at all the examples to be found on our Arts Week page on the school website. You can also use the link at the bottom of this letter. As you look through the teachers’ pieces, try and connect more deeply than merely looking at the teachers. There are carefully hidden clues if you take the time to look and really ‘read’ the photographs.



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When I set the task for the teachers, they were certainly up for the challenge and game to give it a go. Little did I realise the immense pleasure that I'd get in receiving them. When the 'Miro' above was emailed, I had so many questions about it. I examined it for a long time and then returned to it, finding further little gems. Look for the detail.

Some have taken favourite paintings as a starting point; others have identified physical characteristics. Objects within paintings have prompted some teachers to use their ingenuity and creativity. How will you set about choosing or finding your painting to recreate? Who will be in it? What little clues can you include as a nod to the connection with lockdown? As is always the case, teachers have gone above and beyond, creating their own lockdown compositions that say so much about them – and about lockdown as a phenomenon. You can't help but be amused by their photographs and I hope that they inspire you to give it a go too. I can't wait to see them.

In order for your photographs to connect with lockdown, there are three criteria to follow:

- Only items that you already have at home can be used (no going out to buy anything additional)
- Costume or make up should be attempted (but you'll see from teachers' photographs that this might be a sheet, a shawl, or a nod to a colour)
- The creation needs to connect with lockdown (you'll see that cleaning products, chocolate cake, lockdown partners and pets feature in the teachers' portraits)

We will be providing you with a new and separate email address to which you can send your photos (with an image of the original). Details of how to submit these and other Arts Week projects will be released next week.

Teachers' recreated artworks can be found here

<https://www.sheringtonprimary.co.uk/arts-week-2020/>

Today's music can be found here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jsMu1L9x_Qc

With my very best wishes for a creative half term break,

ABurnell

Amanda Burnell

Acting Headteacher

