

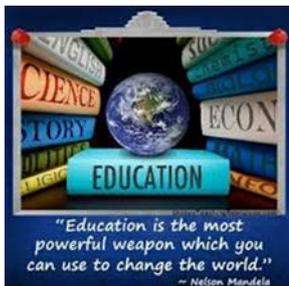
Message from Debi Bailey, CEO

Dear students, parents and carers



I hope you have had a positive week. We have now reached the end of week 3 of the latest national lockdown. Our schools continue to provide a range of super learning experiences for those young people who need to attend school, either because they are children of critical workers or they are particularly vulnerable.

I want to remind parents and carers who are critical workers that the government's guidance is that they should keep their children at home if they can. Therefore please only send your child to school if you need the place. I'm aware that some of our schools are beginning to struggle to manage the number of learners in school, who are in smaller groups to ensure plenty of space for social distancing, whilst also providing a quality remote learning offer to those at home.



All schools have a really good remote learning offer up and running and I know that everyone is working really hard to ensure that all of our learners are engaging. It is really important that **all** of our students who are currently working from home engage with the learning. I'm aware that we have a small group of learners who are not completing work. Just like a 'normal' school day, there is an expectation that children will engage with learning daily.

If you are struggling with any aspect of learning from home, please speak to your child's school. We really need your support to ensure that when we do open fully to all learners again that no-one has been left behind.

Wellbeing Tip of the Week

This week's tip is to do something new. There are some really fun and age appropriate ideas - I've shared an example overleaf of **'51 Things to Do Before You Turn 10'**. Have a look, I'm sure there's something here for everyone in the household to try, whatever their age. (Although some will have to wait until lockdown ends!)

Poem of the Week

My newsletter finishes off, as always, with a poem. This week is **'What you need to be warm'** by Neil Gaiman. His poem will hopefully put a smile on your face. I think it reminds us all that the small things can make such a big difference.

On the theme of small things making a big difference, we also saw on Wednesday the power of the spoken word in the form of a poem at the US Presidential Inauguration Ceremony. Amanda Gorman is the first National Youth Poet Laureate and performed her own poem 'The Hill We Climb' in front of a TV audience of millions – what an inspiring young woman. You can watch it here on the BBC News website:



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/world-us-canada-55739805>

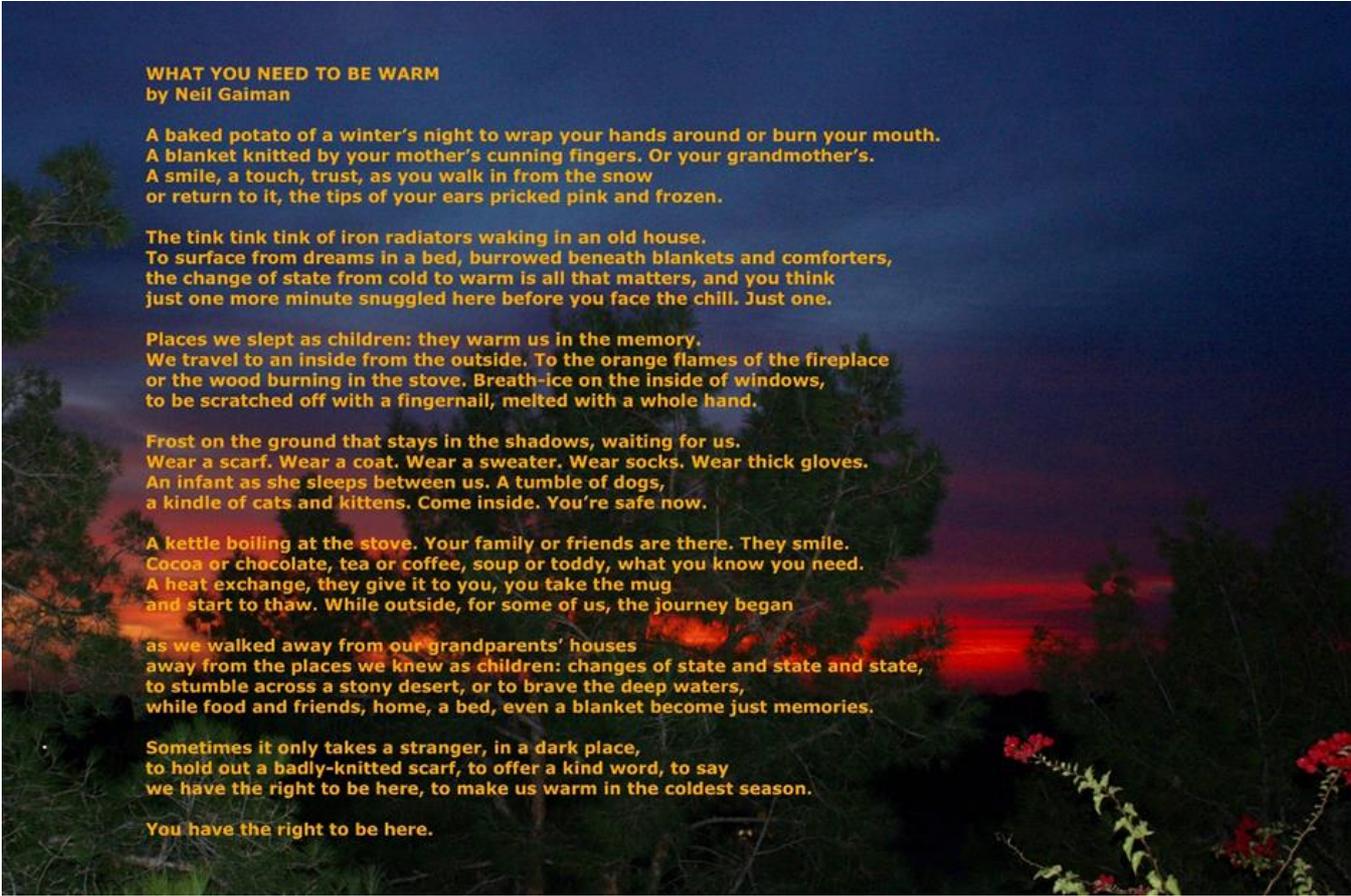
Please take care of yourselves and each other.

51 Things to Do Before You Turn 10

1. Learn to knit
2. Learn to cook
3. Make your own bed....properly
4. Have a penpal in a few countries
5. Learn to code
6. Make a stop motion movie
7. Do a random act of kindness
8. Learn to crochet
9. Dye or cut your hair for charity
10. Grow something edible from seeds
11. Build a treehouse
12. Run around in the rain
13. Fly a kite
14. Roll down a big hill
15. Make a daisy chain
16. Find a geocache ✓
17. Read a classic book
18. Write and post a letter
19. Go on a walk at night with a torch
20. Catch a falling autumn leaf
21. Taste a snowflake on your tongue
22. Make snow angels
23. Play conkers
24. Learn numbers 1-10 in a few languages
25. Learn to play a musical instrument
26. Make perfume in the garden with flowers and herbs
27. Go pond dipping
28. Make a bow and arrow
29. Learn to work the washing machine
30. Go camping in your back garden
31. Try a new food you've never tried.
32. Watch bats flying at dusk
33. Bake a cake
34. Hold an animal
35. See a calf/lamb/foal being born
36. Learn to ride a bike
37. See the sun come up
38. Lie on your back and watch clouds
39. Take a photograph with a proper camera (not a phone)
40. Learn a magic trick
41. Learn which birds are which by looking at them
42. Toast marshmallows
43. Go to the theatre
44. Learn how to dance ✓
45. Have an adventure
46. Interview a grandparent about what it was like being a kid in the olden days
47. Write a story or poem
48. Make icecream
49. Save up for something big
50. Know where milk comes from really
51. Visit an old person



My **KidsTime**



WHAT YOU NEED TO BE WARM
by Neil Gaiman

A baked potato of a winter's night to wrap your hands around or burn your mouth.
A blanket knitted by your mother's cunning fingers. Or your grandmother's.
A smile, a touch, trust, as you walk in from the snow
or return to it, the tips of your ears pricked pink and frozen.

The tink tink tink of iron radiators waking in an old house.
To surface from dreams in a bed, burrowed beneath blankets and comforters,
the change of state from cold to warm is all that matters, and you think
just one more minute snuggled here before you face the chill. Just one.

Places we slept as children: they warm us in the memory.
We travel to an inside from the outside. To the orange flames of the fireplace
or the wood burning in the stove. Breath-ice on the inside of windows,
to be scratched off with a fingernail, melted with a whole hand.

Frost on the ground that stays in the shadows, waiting for us.
Wear a scarf. Wear a coat. Wear a sweater. Wear socks. Wear thick gloves.
An infant as she sleeps between us. A tumble of dogs,
a kindle of cats and kittens. Come inside. You're safe now.

A kettle boiling at the stove. Your family or friends are there. They smile.
Cocoa or chocolate, tea or coffee, soup or toddy, what you know you need.
A heat exchange, they give it to you, you take the mug
and start to thaw. While outside, for some of us, the journey began

as we walked away from our grandparents' houses
away from the places we knew as children: changes of state and state and state,
to stumble across a stony desert, or to brave the deep waters,
while food and friends, home, a bed, even a blanket become just memories.

Sometimes it only takes a stranger, in a dark place,
to hold out a badly-knitted scarf, to offer a kind word, to say
we have the right to be here, to make us warm in the coldest season.

You have the right to be here.