

Dear Beech Class

I hope you are all well and have been trying your best with your home learning! We have been so lucky with the warm, sunny weather so I hope that you have had lots of opportunities to get outside either in the garden or walking with your family. I'm sure you're all being super sensible and keeping a safe social distance!

Half of me can't believe that it's been six weeks since we've been at school, but the other half of me can: it seems such a long time ago that we were altogether – I'm worried that I won't recognise some of you when we return to school! If the spring weather is affecting you like it is my children, you will be growing taller, freckles will be appearing and no doubt hair has grown! I am keeping everything crossed that things will get back to normal for us soon.

I know that some of you have been able to see each other on screen using Zoom and Facetime. It's so important to talk to friends and family as much as you can. I have loved receiving your emails and hearing about what you've been up to. It's been fantastic to see some of your super learning too – well done for having a go. I know it can be difficult. I too have been really busy working at home and I am really missing teaching you in the classroom. It is tricky planning, working and organising things away from school! It has taken me some time to adjust, so I do understand how difficult it can be to cope with all the changes.



In between working and helping my own children with their home learning, I have been exploring parts of Berkhamsted I've never visited before on my many dog walks. Stanley and I often go out early in the morning and we have been known to walk for miles! I have discovered places I never knew existed! We have also found some very remote areas of Ashridge forest and have seen some stunning bluebells!



On one particular walk we heard the most incredible cuckoo call. It lasted for a good hour and was so clear. I hope you can hear it too by **double clicking on the image** (you need to make sure the volume is up on the computer). (if not, I will play it to you when we're back at school!)

There is a saying that when you hear the 'first cuckoo of Spring' your wish will come true! I made a big wish that we'd all be back in our classroom soon.... So fingers crossed!

Last week it was my eldest daughter's birthday – she is now 14! It was very strange for her celebrating a birthday in lockdown, but whilst she couldn't see her friends, we managed to have cake and play party games! It was certainly a birthday to

remember!! If you have your birthday coming up, I'm sure you will be able to do something fun – and you can be confident that you will remember your 8th birthday as a very special one!

I have included Maths, English and Curriculum activities in your learning pack again. I hope you find these fun, creative and inspiring – and that they help to structure your days. As I said in my last letter, setting a family schedule is a good way to plan your week. Make sure you include lots of exercise and calm time in each day. You will see in your learning pack that I have included some structured activities to focus on your emotional wellbeing. I hope that you find this useful.

Once again I would love you to email me with your news – please do send me some more examples of your learning – I love to see them! janine.bennett@greenway.herts.sch.uk

In the meantime, stay safe, wash your hands... and listen out for cuckoos!

Love, Mrs Bennett

