

8 June 2020

Dear parents

Here is a message from our favourite poet Cheryl Moskowitz who is offering us the chance to be part of a ground-breaking opportunity! She says:

‘I hope you are all managing in these very uncertain times. Following my ‘Just Supposing...’ poem in the first edition of *The Hatch*, I have been working on a new collection of poetry, ***The Corona Collection – A Conversation***, that focuses on children’s experiences and ways of coping during lockdown, what they have been missing most and what they want the world to look like after the coronavirus. In writing the poems, I spoke to as many different children, parents and teachers as I could – many of these were from Carterhatch Junior School – at 2m distance of course and outdoors!

Later this month, the collection will be printed and distributed free in the Borough of Enfield to Year 6 pupils in all the primary schools.

As some of the poems have come from working at Carterhatch Juniors I wanted to take the opportunity to run some very small group “bubble” workshops this Thursday to explore some of the poems and make a film of the children’s responses and ideas.

The workshops will happen outside in the playground in the storytelling area with all safe distancing measures in place. I will work separately with one ‘bubble’ group of (maximum of 6 pupils) and their teacher at a time. Each workshop will be for half an hour. My husband, Alastair Gavin, who is a professional musician, sound recordist and an experienced photographer, will do the filming.

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Here is the poem that started it all – from the first edition of The Hatch:

***Just Supposing...***

*you woke up tomorrow  
and there weren't all these rules  
like: YOU HAVE TO STAY HOME!  
and: YOU CAN'T GO TO SCHOOL!!  
And whatever you wished for,  
where to go, what to do,  
who to be with, how many –  
was all up to you.  
Where would it be,  
doing what, and with whom?'*

The film and resources will be used by Enfield Council Education Department to share with other schools and we are hoping to put the film on our website. No pupils will be named or identified individually.

If you do not want your child to take part, please let us know by the end of this Wednesday 10 June.

What a great way to start back at Carterhatch Juniors! This month every primary school in Enfield will hear about the poetry we have helped create. We will be famous!

Yours sincerely

H. McGovern  
Headteacher