

Rise and shine: wk. bg. 18.5.20

Good morning Blackfen students,

It's Week B

THE PIPS HAVE SOUNDED! GET UP! GET DRESSED! GET GOING!!

Ta-daaaah!

Move over James Bond! M has arrived. Yeah!!

Standing on tiptoe, very, very quietly and leaning to the left, out of the back bedroom window (don't try this at home), I can see into my neighbour's garden, two houses further down the road. The art of spying is to blend, effortlessly, into the scene, so that you don't draw attention to yourself. I may not have mastered this particular element of the role, just yet but my mission has been fully accomplished: I can see into my neighbour's greenhouse.

It is a beautiful greenhouse: it has a dark green frame; many clean window panels; sliding doors at each end; flaps that open in the roof section and lights that go on at night. There are plants in pots on tables; flowers in hanging baskets and a small bush near the far sliding door. Watering cans and plastic squashy buckets are stacked neatly under the tables. Oh yes. I've seen it all!

The purpose of my mission is academic research (and not envy) because on the table, at my end of the greenhouse, are two big pots of *tomato plants*. I am carefully researching the business of growing tomatoes. Last week, slim bamboo stakes were added to each pot, to support the plants and ensure they grow in the right direction. We need to keep this news quiet and just between us. These plants are big – much, much bigger than Mr Brown's seedlings – and we don't want to discourage him, at this stage. When the time comes, I will be able to understand and discuss with him the art of staking tomato plants. I've also found a short YouTube clip to help him out.

The bamboo stakes remind me of Mr Brown's wise words, last week, about the importance of connections with our friends and family to keeping healthy minds and a sense of well-being. These connections are like little personal bamboo stakes, which hold us up and keep us going in the right direction. Our Business students are familiar with the term 'stakeholders': a person or organisation that has a 'stake' in the business, something that supports the business and makes it successful. School leaders and teachers often describe our students and their families as very important stakeholders in Blackfen School: without you, we wouldn't have a school.

Next week is the May half term break, so 'Rise and Shine *a little later*' will be setting a fun holiday challenge about the little personal bamboo stakes that have stayed sturdy and strong to help you get through the lockdown experience. What might you photograph: a special person or maybe a favourite place or a shared activity? One of my students recently uploaded a photograph of her work and there, in the corner, was the edge of a saucer and a couple of biscuits. Amazing! I use the very same bamboo stake: five minutes of peace and quiet, away from the laptop screen, with a cup of tea and a biscuit to calm me down in a bad patch.

So have a think, this week and we'll take up the challenge, next week. It's time to close my bedroom window, very, very quietly. Shhhhhhhh!

Best wishes to you and your family this week.

Yours sincerely,

Miss F Minnis

Deputy Headteacher

On behalf of Blackfen School leaders and teachers