

Rise and shine: wk. bg. 27.4.20

Good morning Blackfen students,

It's Week A

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

Question: Why did the tomato blush?

Answer: Because he saw the salad dressing!

That joke almost matches Mr Brown's singing ... in the Christmas Assembly, last year ... in the Father Christmas costume. Thank goodness those trousers stayed up, otherwise we could have had another blushing moment!

Tomatoes were the theme of Mr Brown's wise words last week. He reminded us of the quotation by Sandra Kring: "The tiny seed knew that in order to grow, it needed to be dropped in dirt, covered in darkness, struggle to reach the light."

Last week was a bit of a struggle. The 'holiday' finished and we started the strangest new term that Blackfen School has ever experienced. It meant starting up the routines of school study, family support and chill time. Like the tiny seed, the main source of our struggle, at the moment, is our environment. Working and living at home impacts on every single action and decision that we make. The national lockdown means that families are seeing a lot more of each other and lot less of their personal space. Let's face it, your parents and carers never expected to be providing childcare for you, at home and at your age!

The tiny seed doesn't like the darkness of its environment, nor the struggle required in order to escape it. But the struggle to reach the light makes the seed grow. Its little stems and leaves strengthen, develop, find the surface of the soil and then - Pow! Wow!! Beautiful flowers open in the light, tomatoes ripen and there is a delicious harvest.

In the book that Mr Brown used in his special Assemblies, on the day that the school closed, there is a page which explains the point of keeping going: "Our struggles are the short-term steps we must take on our way to long-term success". In other words, the struggles of lockdown are for here and now but not forever. We will look back at the struggles of this time and remember the frustration, confusion and despair. At the same time, we will recognise how this unpleasant experience has helped us to grow up a bit more; to see life a bit differently and to value the people and opportunities that we used to take for granted. The struggles of today will help us cope in the future, in ways that we don't even know about yet.

This week, let's think about our environment: our families. During the holiday, you made beautiful rainbow cards to encourage our local NHS heroes in their difficult jobs; can you take on a secret 'rainbow mission' to encourage a hero in your home? Could you do a job for someone, without telling them (How did that happen?) Could you tidy/fix/mend something without being asked (Who did this?) Could you make a little gift and leave it under someone's pillow (How did that get there?) Come on: let's encourage our heroes at home!

Best wishes to you and your family this week.

Yours sincerely,  
Miss F Minnis

Deputy Headteacher  
On behalf of Blackfen School leaders and teachers