

How are the charities we support through our Outward Giving coping during the pandemic? Over the next few weeks we share some of their experiences.

Holy Trinity Pewley Down School



March 20th 2020 saw the closure of HTPD school to all but a handful of keyworker children and skeleton staff on rotation.

Over one weekend, headteacher Clare Brunet and her team of staff created and implemented Virtual School. With typical teaching methods abruptly halted, staff devised daily task sheets that children could access online, following curriculum topics and encouraging independent learning and reading through various media.

Family Link workers at the school worked tirelessly to support those children without IT provision and to address the immediate needs of our more vulnerable families.

One HT family was instrumental in setting up a weekly food bank collection at Guildford County School, providing for local families suddenly finding themselves in very challenging circumstances. Another, who owns a local pub, was enormously generous in distributing kitchen stock that was now surplus to requirement.

School stayed open for keyworker children over the Easter holidays, after which Zoom meetings were set up between form teachers and their respective classes. This contact often involved a quiz or scavenger hunt, and parents reported the joyful impact of staff and pupils reunited in this way, following a month at home.

The final half term of the school year saw the Reception Year return to Pewley Infants, and Years 1 and 6 to the Holy Trinity site. This was another huge task to implement – risk assessing all those returning physically to school life. Teaching these children in bubbles of 15 utilised most staff and classroom space. Feedback from this phase was incredibly positive, with children thriving. Their resilience was observed and admired as they settled quickly with new teachers and classmates.

Support continued for the majority of children still at home, with a Virtual Sports Week and ongoing encouragement from Laura, the sports coordinator, to stay active, adapting exercise where necessary to fit into small spaces! Virtual Art Club with teaching assistant Steph was hugely popular, as were regular group reading sessions with librarian Geraldine, who tirelessly sourced recommendations, online book festivals and author-led narrations.

Clare Brunet has really missed Assemblies – the vibrant, lively gatherings to sing, share and celebrate school life. So much a priority here.

We all hope and pray that the community can reunite in September and celebrate their love of learning face to face.

Staff Zoom meeting



Morning briefing



*One of the children
showing appreciation*



Follow this link to see the Great Works Of Quarantine Art that children and staff have created in Steph's Brilliant Art Club:

<http://www.holytrinity.surrey.sch.uk/getattachment/The-School/Weekly-News/News/July-2020/Art-Fun/our-quarantine-art--Autosaved---Autosaved-.pdf.aspx>

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