

Friday 26 May 2023

Dear Everyone

It's that time of year when the *Great British Sewing Bee* begins (*BBC 1*, Wednesdays at 8.00 p.m. and *BBC iPlayer*). That's our telly diet sorted out for the next few weeks, and the inspiration for this morning's assembly. Don't be surprised if you are asked to teach your child to mend a hem or sew on a button this weekend.

Last weekend Dawn and I spent a whole day weeding. Very satisfying, and I have no doubt the weeds will all have grown back by this weekend. Although there is renewed debate among horticulturalists about the status of weeds, now dubbed 'resilient plants' by the *RHS*. Parker enjoyed padding about the place while we plucked various bits of green from the soil. Ground ivy is the work of the devil.

This bank holiday weekend, Parker is off on holiday with his friend Mabel so that Dawn and I can take part in *Ride London*.

Here they are from a few months ago when she came to stay with us.



Online safety remains at the forefront of helping children, with the Online Safety bill having its reintroduction to parliament. The challenges are not going away, and we continue to urge parents to take their child's access and usage of social media very seriously.

At 5.00 p.m. on Thursday 1 June, the school will run a PSHE consultation and online safety briefing. Do come!

Continuing the AI thinking from last week, and its impact on education, a second online mini conference with a different group of academics provoked some interesting questions.

What can we trust? AI currently draws on an existing body of knowledge, which in essence creates a dumb system that can be manipulated. How and when might AI become deliberative? Asking the right question is often more important than the answer generated. From which, there are many answers, and some but not all will be wrong. Uncertainty, and dealing with it, therefore, is an increasingly important state of mind and approach. One participant proposed that the set of things that makes us human is getting smaller. What about the sense of wonder, I suggested?

Here's something for you all to learn from David Byrne.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BC9soVO79iU>

Very best wishes

Simon