



Dear friends

As I write it's hard to know quite what to say! There are a lot of thoughts (not sure I can call them ideas!) buzzing around in my head, and lots that I could mention, but it all seems a little inadequate, or feels like it has been said before. This seems to reflect a trend for me over the past few weeks in that I have found it hard to make decisions. So many things seem up in the air. We can plan, but only to a certain degree; we can organise, but only up to a point; but we can hope, well, always hope! That's not to say it's easy. I'm sure many of us have had hopes dashed over recent times, but we can be confident that our hope in God is not misplaced, nor temporary; that coronavirus does not take hope away nor diminish hope's power.

Hope is something that we have all heard a lot about recently. It's talked about as something we need, that we can hold onto, that is part of our recovery, that is key for our mental health. The rainbow symbol has become popular and well used over recent months. For Christians it has its roots in the biblical story of Noah and the promise that a flood would not destroy the Earth again. It's a symbol of hope alongside a promise from God. It was relevant then, and it's still relevant today. We have promises from God that we can hold onto, that we can have a confident hope in.

... but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint. - Isaiah 40:31

Avid prayer letter readers (maybe it's you!) will know that over the last year or so we have been looking at GenR8's values, and it won't surprise you to hear that hope is one! We describe it in our aims and vision document as *'bringing good news through the message we give and in our relationships with others'*. The word gospel of course means 'good news' and that is what we endeavor to bring and share through the ministry of GenR8: not just through what we say and do in a school assembly or at our Xcellr8 weekend, but also through who we are when we enter a school building or are recognised in a supermarket (no brand names here!). We aim to share the good news of Jesus with children, and with the adults we meet along the way. Why? To bring a sure-fire hope, not just for today but for tomorrow.

Thank you for continuing to stand with us as we find new methods of bringing good news and hope to children.



We were asked to produce a 5-minute video on the theme of hope for an online ecumenical service in November, involving a number of churches. You can view this at: https://youtu.be/8OG_QiqFmeY

We would like to thank you for the brilliant assemblies and materials you send through to our schools. We really appreciate these and the Christian message that shines through your amazing work.

Federation Headteacher

- 🌸 Planning, recording and editing of our Connect and Reflect videos for primary schools this term.
- 🌸 For Josephine Griffin (former West Norfolk team leader) after the death of her husband, Brian.
- 🌸 For our online Xcellr8 weekend from 12th to 14th February 2021.
- 🌸 For Rachel, Megan, Ellen, Millie and Alfie.
- 🌸 For continued wisdom and discernment in future planning.
- 🌸 Give thanks for a wonderful staff and volunteer team who have been so adaptable, supportive and brilliant during 2020.

Thank you on behalf of our staff for the thoughtful words and kind gift you have sent us. It truly has been a challenging year and will continue to be next year. Your prayers are a source of strength and greatly appreciated. - Headteacher