

Dear Cornflowers and Parents

I hope you are all well. Apologies: the text and activities for Tom's midnight Garden were not posted up last week although I thought they were, so I will post them up this week (Chapter 8) as well as the next instalment - which includes two chapters: 9 and 10. I hope you are enjoying the book and the activities, I certainly am but I'm not sure what to do when we come to the end of term. I know some of you have got copies of the book and there are a number of TV adaptations as well as a film version which are all available online. I think the story is a little dated in some ways but the characters are well observed, and personally I WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENS and that is always the most important thing in a story so I intend to continue reading. I will try to post up at least one more chapter and activity next week.

The caption competition has attracted entries of quality rather than quantity and I am pleased to announce the winners.

In second place is...

Mr Doyle with:

"Mr Woodward, when is the Health and Safety Policy up for review?"

And in joint FIRST PLACE are...

Ryan, Tom, and Nathan with these gems:

Ryan: Mr Doyle loved St James so much, he couldn't bear to 'leaf' for the summer.

Tom: "I know teaching is run on a skeleton budget, but this is ridiculous!"

Nathan: Hide and seek game's taking a good hundred years or so...

Prizes await these witty quipsters.

(Mr Doyle's prize is a year's supply of Mackeson's Milk Stout).

I honestly could not choose between these entries which is why they have been awarded joint places. Plus I wouldn't have got a prize if I had haha.

We have had a strange year, that's for sure, but next week we will be doing a few things in school to say good-bye to the Year 6s who have been a fabulous year group - if you are one of them you will know a little bit about this already. We are also trying hard to include all the Year 6s who won't be in school - for whatever reason - next week. You may also know that we have plans to celebrate

the end of our Year 6s time at St James after the summer break. We have all worked as hard as we can during the last few months and I would like to thank those of you who have given messages of support to me personally and to the school. We can't please everybody - but we try very hard to do just that.

I'm also sad to say - although you will know already - that Mrs Seville will be leaving us. She has been a great friend to me as well as a great colleague and I will miss her. We have shared many things at St James both happy and sad and I wish her every happiness and success for the future. It is a real shame that we cannot give her the send-off she deserves, but the children in school have begun to put a memory book together for her. If you are at home and you have a memory of her that you would like to include, or if you would like to send a message for the book to wish her well for the future please email it to me so we can include it. If you could get it to me over the weekend I would be very grateful.

As well as the book activities I have posted up the usual maths challenges and a comprehension activity on Time Travel... is it possible? It includes some discussion points, so I hope you have fun philosophising.

That's it for this week (although I bet I've forgotten something), and it may be that that's it as far as these weekly letters go, as next week is the last one of this term, and the school year. I would like once again to thank you all for being such a fantastic class. I wish I had been able to teach you for longer, and I want to wish you Year 6s all the very best for the future (and please come and see me lots and lots). I will still be checking emails so please do not hesitate to send me any work or news of anything you have been up to, or just to say hello.

I hope to see you all soon.

Take care and remember:

Carpe diem: tempus fugit