#### **Dear Parents and Carers,**

What a lovely first week back! We'll be honest...it is like the children have never been away and that is just what we'd hoped for. We're putting in lots of plans for how we'll support them all academically but this week it has been a real joy to watch and listen to them chat away with each other and just enjoy a bit of normality. That said, we've tried to get back in to good learning behaviours straight away and we have been so impressed with their attitude to what they are doing in class. Top draw...well done everyone. We're looking forward to the weeks ahead and hope that our lives outside school can become a little more normal too.

Have a wonderful weekend from all at UPS! (PS - We hope you've enjoyed your first week of freedom!)

#### **Commemorative Art!**

As you know, we are in the process of doing a quite mammoth collaborative art project. You have all received part of a wing and, as we've all been part of what has been going on over the last year, it would be great if all of our families could contribute to our final piece, so please, please get creative with your children and have your work in by Tuesday! We'll be looking for donations for Red Nose Day next Friday and in response to your generosity, you'll get a keepsake of a wonderful framed photo of your children, similar to the one below.



# Support for your children

It wouldn't be surprising if you're concerned at the moment about your child's feelings and emotions. As time goes by we might find that there are one or two anxieties that they display that you might need support or guidance with. Please make sure that you contact us if you have any worries about your child's wellbeing and we'll make sure we support them here in school. If you'd like to take a look at developing your own understanding and how to deal with things that might arise at home, the link below might help.

https://solihullapproachparenting.com/ourplace/

## **Belonging**

Our forum on 'Belonging' is on Tuesday at 6pm. At a time when feeling welcomed, valued and listened to is more important than ever, it is essential that we all work together to help each other understand a variety of perspectives and to respect each other's stories and experiences, in an effort to help build a society and community for our children where no one feels marginalised or on the outside. For our children, this begins with us—as families, as a school community, and as educators. We can't emphasise how important it is to us to listen to your thoughts on how you as a family feel about belonging to our school community and the community in general. We hope to become a truly 'Anti-Racist' school and this will form a key part of our focus, but our emphasis it is not only on including and engaging our BAME community - we'd love people to attend from all perspectives of diversity...from race, to religion, to gender, to sexuality, to disability, to the huge variety of mental, social and emotional differences. Please join us on our journey and help us to become as inclusive as we can be and to help us all to try to educate ourselves and raise awareness of these issues. We hope to see you there! Here's the link:

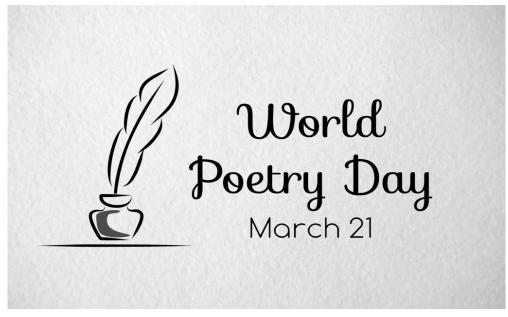
https://zoom.us/j/99354287504?pwd=UFIrQ0Z4b24xU2lGdG0xSjc1eVlqdz09 Meeting ID: 993 5428 7504 Passcode: 237289

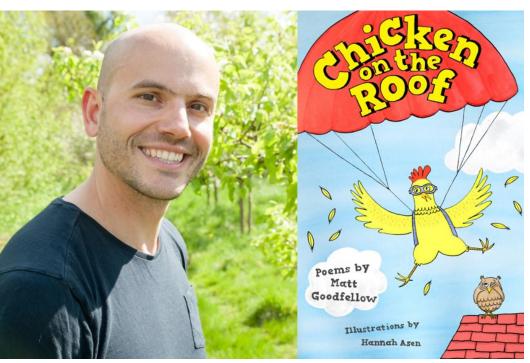
### **International Women's Day**

Time has been spent this week discussing IWD and today (rather than Monday), we wear purple as we reflect on how horribly unequal society still is.

Thank you to all of our daughters, mothers and grandmothers for your strength and resilience. We'll continue to educate our children with values of respect and equality for every individual and appreciate your support in proactively educating them with the same values. #choosetochallenge







We'll be combining Red Nose Day and World Poetry Day next week. As yesterday's letter mentioned, poet, Matt Goodfellow will be joining our children virtually to inspire us and help us see that 'Funny is power!'

You'll also know that to raise money for RND this year, we'll be asking for donations for framed photographs of our children with our collaborative art project. Suggested donations are £2-3—we'll cover our costs and the rest will go to the charities supported by RND!

Thanks in advance for your support.