

To our **incredible** children,



Can you believe that we are half way through our summer term? And whilst this summer term is vastly different to those of previous years, you are all continuing to **amaze** me with the way in which you are taking everything in your stride. It has been an absolute **joy** to see how many of you have sent in responses to our **PROJECTS OF HOPE**; the manga artwork has been **brilliant** and the recordings of both 'A Million Dreams' and 'We'll Meet Again' have been a **delight** to listen to. Thank you all so much!

### A lasting reminder of Hope

In this week's letter I thought I would take the opportunity to share with you an **exciting**, new piece of artwork that is actually being created in our school as I write this letter. It is a mosaic of **HOPE** which will be displayed for everybody who passes our school to see, serving as a lasting reminder of the feeling of Hope created by the whole community of Hebburn during these strange and uncertain times. It has been designed with the help of local artist Simon Terry, who has worked alongside his family to construct the final piece this week. It will include some very important details too - each and every one of your initials will be painted on to the tiles to remind us of how brave and strong you have all been over the past two months. I can't wait for you all to see it!



### VE Day

The last time I wrote to you I told you about our special recording for VE day. The amount of people who sent in recordings was **fantastic** and it was very moving to hear all of your voices merged with those from other schools in our area. Some of you might have even heard our very own Mr Conway being interviewed on local radio! He was very proud of you all! It was a wonderful opportunity to be involved in this joint project, however, our next virtual choir recording will focus solely on St Aloysius.



### Somewhere Over the Rainbow

I don't know about you, but I think one of the main symbols that has stood out to us all as a sign of hope during these very strange times is the image of a **rainbow**. I have loved seeing all of the **beautiful** rainbow pictures displayed around our school, around Hebburn, and indeed, around the rest of the world!



We even decided to include rainbow swirls in our mosaic to remind us of the sense of hope that rainbow imagery has created! It is because of this that I thought '*Somewhere Over the Rainbow*' would be a good choice of song for us to record next. I hope you all agree! Our very talented friend, Mike, has very kindly written us some more instructions and prepared another backing track to sing along to. I have attached his new instructions to the end of this letter.

I would also like to ask that alongside your recordings you send in photos based around the theme of 'Rainbows'. You might choose to send pictures of you standing next to the rainbows you have created, you might have rainbow face paint on, you might have made a rainbow using items in your home - be as *creative* as you can! I will use these pictures to make a music video to accompany the song.

*Draw your Hopes - the next stage!*



The Manga illustrations we have received so far are excellent! Now, here's another chance to get arty, but in a more thoughtful, sensitive way. View the new video by Greg McGee <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qLy0gpnK8U0&feature=youtu.be> video and watch how easy it is to create a masterpiece or two. Painting, Collage, and carefully composed Photography should never be seen as difficult: all it takes is some deep thinking and then you can get stuck into it.

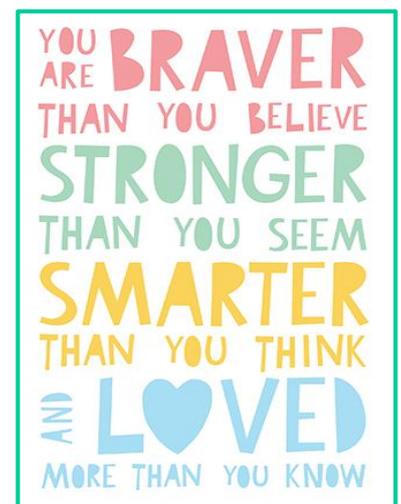
- *What can you paint?*  
We went for seascapes, but you can paint a skyscape, a cityscape, a landscape.
- *What can you Collage?*  
We went for the names of the things we miss the most, but you can go photos of landmarks, printed photos, or anything that catches your eye in a magazine and mix it with paint.
- *What can you Photograph?*  
Whatever makes you stop and think under Lockdown is valid. So you might see the birds in the garden who are freer than us, or an unused pair of football boots, or a spring dress that has gone unworn. Think of how it looks in the frame, and think of the light.

This is a chance for you to show us what goes on in your heart at this moment in history. The Manga was a great start. Now let's go deeper! Remember to send all of your artwork to the email address [art@st-alloysius.co.uk](mailto:art@st-alloysius.co.uk)

Next week is half term; I hope you continue to share special times with your families. I hope you have lots of laughs and carry on creating lots of memories. Let's hope the sun shines! I can't wait to see all of your gorgeous faces and hear all of your wonderful voices again!

Lots of love

*Miss Doughty*



Hello everyone!

It is me again - Mike! I hope you are enjoying the sunshine and managing to cope with the lock down. It sounds like things are going to get more 'normal' soon and, who knows, I may even get to MEET you all.

So far we have created A Million Dreams and, with other schools, We'll Meet Again... One was about you and your school, the other about the older people in our community and those we are missing during the COVID strange times. Next we are moving onto a song of real hope – for everyone. It is hard to believe that 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow' was written over 80 years ago. It first appeared in The Wizard of Oz but since then has been sung by lots of other people including Eva Cassidy, Ariana Grande and recently Amanda Holden. Let's see what YOU come up with.

The process remains the same! **REMEMBER... THIS IS WHAT YOU NEED...**

Ideally, you will need to be able to use a

1. **MOBILE PHONE** on a table or desk. Find the **VOICE RECORDER APP** on it – anyone will do or download a free one if your parents let you.
2. **A TABLET OR a PC OR LAPTOP OR SECOND PHONE** and
3. **HEADPHONES PLUGGED INTO** THAT TABLET / PC / LAPTOP / SECOND PHONE

### **HOW DOES IT WORK AGAIN?!**

The **MOBILE PHONE** is your microphone – your recording studio and the thing you **SING** into. Place it on a table around 3 feet away from you.

The **TABLET / PC / LAPTOP / OTHER PHONE** is your 'piano player' or conductor – the person you need to follow to sing the right thing at the right time – the thing you **LISTEN** to.

The **HEADPHONES** are how you are able to listen to the music. **BUT THERE IS A SPECIAL TRICK**. You need to keep one headphone on your ear and the other one OFF the other ear. This will help you to hear the music... BUT ALSO hear your voice! If you have both headphones on it becomes difficult to know if you are singing the right tune! TRUST ME – it's what we do in recording studios!

1. REMEMBER TO **WARM UP** YOUR VOICE. When we meet I will show you lots of ways to do this but for now, stand up straight, relax your shoulders and yawn, (YES! Yawn) a couple of times. The muscles in your face and neck are the same for singing as they are yawning!
2. HAVE A LISTEN AND A SING. Pop your headphones on to listen to **THIS TRACK** on your TABLET / PC / LAPTOP / OTHER PHONE.

<https://soundcloud.com/wildcats-of-kilkenny/rainbow-guide/s-T43n1zgt1WP>

Sing the whole thing a couple of times – nice and loud! It is quite long and maybe slower than you know it but do your best.

I have popped the words down below. Don't worry about using your phone to record at this stage. Try it with both headphones on – then just one... it takes some getting used to but it is worth practising. Unfortunately, this song doesn't have the click to listen to but sing along with Rosie, (my daughter and it should keep you in time!

YOU WILL ALSO HEAR ME COUNT IN USING THE FIRST NOTE YOU NEED TO SING FOR THE FIRST WORD!

## WORDS

Somewhere over the rainbow, way up high  
There's a land that I heard of once in a lullaby

Somewhere over the rainbow, Skies are blue,  
And the dreams that you dare to dream, really do come true...

Someday I'll wish upon a star  
And wake up where the clouds are far behind me  
Where troubles melt like lemon drops  
Away above the chimney tops, that's where you'll find me

Somewhere over the rainbow, blue birds fly  
Birds fly over the rainbow, why then, oh why can't I?

Someday I'll wish upon a star  
And wake up where the clouds are far behind me  
Where troubles melt like lemon drops  
Away above the chimney tops, that's where you'll find me

Somewhere over the rainbow, blue birds fly  
Birds fly over the rainbow, why then, oh why can't I?

Try practising with your headphone a few times.

1. RECORDING. When you think you are ready sing the WHOLE song the very best you can, ask someone to start recording using the PHONE voice recorder app. Listen back to it – REMEMBER you will only hear YOUR voice – which might sound a little bit funny but that's what I need.
2. Ask your parent or guardian to send your recorded clip back to THIS school [email music@st-alloysius.co.uk](mailto:music@st-alloysius.co.uk)! The school will send me your clips and I will add them to our anthem!
3. FINALLY.... If you DON'T have headphones you can still take part. Play #TRACK 2 quietly and record yourself (see point 4 above) and get a little closer to your PHONE. It isn't ideal but I don't want you to miss out.
4. As ever, IF YOU OR A PARENT HAS QUESTIONS SEND THEM TO THE SCHOOL AT [music@st-alloysius.co.uk](mailto:music@st-alloysius.co.uk) and they will send them on to me!

It is a beautiful song and remember that RAINBOWS always come after the rain – so if you are feeling a bit fed up with this COVID thing – hang on to the fact that the sun WILL shine again soon – and the world will be better than it ever was before.

Mike McGrother