

RAISE YOUR GLASS Marty Ogle

As an educator, Covid has impacted on me in many ways,

And I am not just referring to my own sick days.

Yes, some got sicker than others but that's the Covid enigma,

For many passionate teachers, we detest the sickness stigma.

But then there has been the many covid long-term effects,

Like coughing, tiredness, headaches – but one suspects

On reflection, these might not be related to just Covid, the disease,

But in fact, it has been like swinging on a high-rise trapeze.

So, let's look at the many aspects of schools – how they operate,

Let's look at a school before they even open the gate.

Let's look at the school trying to find teachers who need to be replaced,

And often not succeeding, sadly leaving them very red faced,

Ringling from 6am until the school bell rings, is a very taxing task,

So, to you in charge of this unenviable challenge, we raise our glass!

Let's look at the fastidious cleaners, who have done an amazing job,

'Clean this, clean that' you got it cleaned – no prob.

You've come in at times often not suitable to your families or you,

But you've got on with it, kept us safe – it's just what you do.

And day after day (and nights) you completed this taxing task,

So, to you in charge of this crucial chore, we raise our glass!

Then there are those people in schools who we couldn't do without,

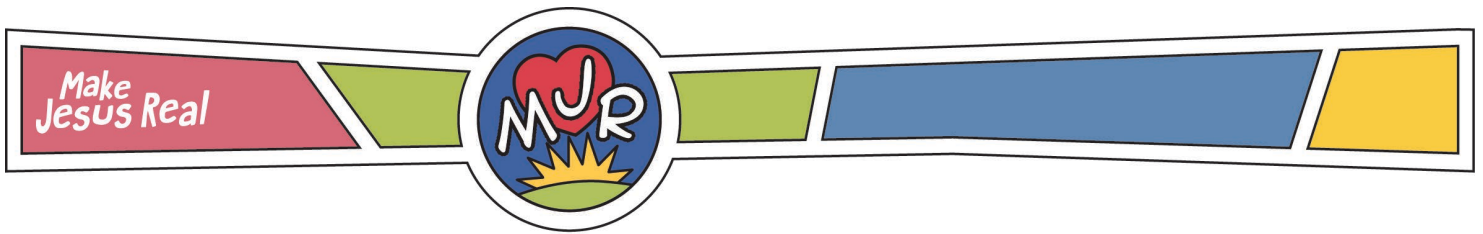
The teacher aides, sent from heaven – there is no doubt.

You smile, get on with it – dealing with those often in great turmoil,

Soothing, calming, striving to finding ways to disembroil.

We thank you, for completing your important taxing task,

So, to you in charge of this crucial duty, we raise our glass!



To the Principals and leaders, who have overseen all of the above,
Taken care of kids, parents, teachers – showing so much love,
Keeping the show going, bringing light to the doom and gloom,
And I bet you never want to see another bloody zoom!
To you we raise our hats, being in charge is an unenviable task,
So, to you in charge of this act of love, we raise our glass!

There are many others in a school, probably too many to name,
Who also do amazing jobs – they also need our acclaim.
To the office staff, grounds people and specialists, a giant thank you,
Remember, you are appreciated for everything you do.
Yes, we remember you – especially for you completing your task,
To you we raise our glass and drink without a mask.

And lastly, to the teachers who want their charges to reach their potential,
We want you to know, you're the glue, you are so essential.
Without your care, extra planning, juggling to get through the hard days,
Please know, we at school, work and home want to sing your praise.
To all the teachers carrying on with distinction, such a challenging task,
Thank You, Thank You, Thank You, now you raise your glass!