



Friday 3rd April 2020

Newsletter 278

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Easter Edition Newsletter

Welcome to our Easter bumper edition of the newsletter. Here we share the home learning children have been doing since the school closure. We also include an update from Lyn and the children in school. It is great to see so many of you engaging in many fantastic activities to keep the children engaged and supporting their learning at home. A huge thank you to staff for their dedicated support during this time and to parents for encouraging daily activities.

Easter Egg Competition

Thank you to parent Louisa for organising the virtual Easter Egg Competition. We hope the children enjoyed making their historical themed creations! We are eggstastic to announce the winners are:

- Piper Reid Saunders - Y1 (Isaac Newton)
- Emya Bent – Y2 (Rosa Parks)
- Jack Doyle – Y3 (Ghandi)
- Amy Fielding - Y5 (Albert Einstein)

An update on those at school from Lyn

It has been an absolute pleasure working here at Gillespie with the few children who are still attending. We have been working really hard and having lots of fun in the process. The other day we had an art afternoon where we produced artwork inspired by the author and illustrator 'Eric Carle' of 'The hungry Caterpillar' fame. Here's some of the fabulous pieces we made!

I miss you all – be good and keep well!

Lyn ☺



Early Years Foundation Stage

We have had an exciting couple of weeks in the EYFS, we all worked together as a team to finally complete our new outdoor Mud Kitchen area.

Children were so kind and went to the garden centre or local shop with their families to buy a plant or herb to plant in our new Mud Kitchen growing area. They then worked together to dig and plant and we now have the most amazing range of plants and herbs that the children can care for and watch grow.

We plan to then be able to use the herbs in our cooking sessions, soon we hope to make some bread flavoured with chive and basil, and some lavender scented playdough!

We had a grand unveiling of our mud kitchen with Mark cutting the red tape!

Some of the Reception children made pamphlets to show grown ups and the nursery children how we can use the skills that we learn at Forest School in our Gillespie Mud Kitchen. Nursery children are very excited about attending Forest School in the summer term, they have been practising putting the waterproof suits and welly boots on independently and have been confident to have a go at getting messy in and making some wonderful mud recipes with their Reception friends.

Most recently Reception children practised whittling using potato peelers and sticks from the Forest, they then created beautiful designs on pieces of cloth and used natural resources to attach the cloth to their stick to create a pirate flag. We displayed them on our outdoor washing line for everyone to see 😊

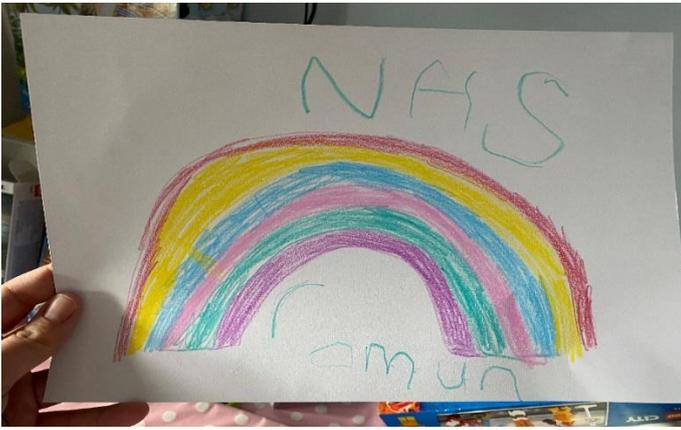
Nursery have enjoyed reading and acting out traditional stories, including; The Three little pigs, The Gingerbread man, Goldilocks and the Three Bears and Little Red Riding hood and Jack and the Beanstalk. We have made fabulous story-maps together with great actions to re-tell the scenes in the stories.

We have all been so impressed with the care and effort children in the EYFS have been putting into their Home Learning these past two weeks. Parents have kindly sent us some of the lovely work that children have been doing and it certainly put a smile on our faces as we are sure it will yours 😊

We miss you all very much and cannot wait to be back having lots of fun and learning at school very soon. Keep up the great work everyone! Love from Katy, Laura, Michelle, Jane and Ana 😊



Nursery class home learning fun...



A beautiful rainbow to brighten up our day and support our fantastic NHS - by Roman, 4 years old.



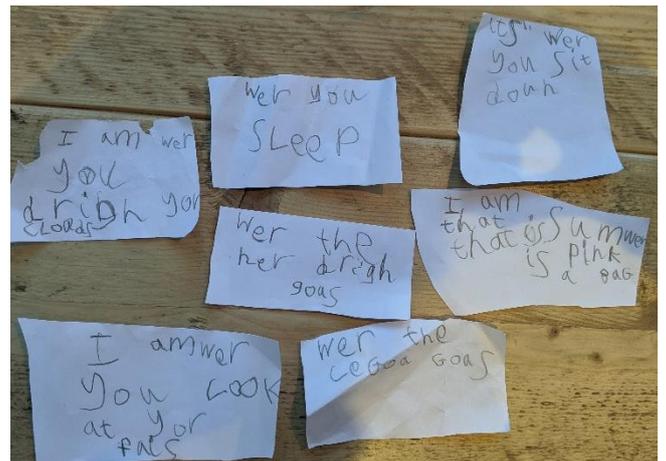
A fantastic self-portrait by- Asher, 3 years old.



Nova and his sister Emya, enjoying a wonderful teddy-bear's picnic! They counted their toys first and then prepared a fabulous feast to share together!

Reception class home learning fun...

Nancy writing her Easter clues for her family to read and find objects around the house. Great use of phonics and wonderful writing for a purpose! - Nancy, 5 years old.



Beautiful spring pointillism art work. What an uplifting vision! - Miles, 5 years old.

Look at Flora's wonderful Dragon created using recycled materials found at home- Flora, 5 years old.



Year 1 update

Year 1 have been very busy over the past 2 weeks. I have been sent lots of photos of the work they have been doing from the paper pack I sent home with them. But they have also been super creative. Daisy has made a fairy garden in a plant pot and written about how she made it, Jude recorded himself singing 'count on me' the assembly song that Orlando posted, Rowan has made a really interesting collage using different pictures he has cut out, Arielle made a science experiment where she created and made a volcano erupt using clay, vinegar and bicarbonate of soda, Maeve is about to start writing a book called 'The trouble with Parents', Kie created her own story about big cats, Arthur has made a shape tally chart and I have had lots of pictures and messages sent by people such Noah and Willow. Thank you to all the year 1 parents who have told me what their children have been up to and how they are feeling.

Steph

Year 2 update

Since February half term, Year 2 has been learning all about artist Georgia O'Keeffe, who is most famous for some of her art that features close ups of different flowers. In class we have been working on our sketching skills - not pressing hard on the paper, and keeping our pencil lying down instead of standing up! We started adding in chalk and oil pastel colours before school shut, and even went into the playground to sketch some of the early Spring flowers that started to pop up! The children have been really enjoying this art unit, and we've continued working on it from home - thank you to all the children that emailed me pictures of their artwork this week - they look fantastic - keep it up!

As Spring continues springing we will be doing some more of these from home, check and see what you can see from the windows in your house - you might spot the next flower you want to draw!

A big thank you to all the supportive parents helping with learning from home!

Genevieve

Year 3 update

Year 3 have been following daily writing lessons on YouTube taught by Jane Considine called 'Super Sentence Stackers'. Click this link to watch the lesson and the animation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uOmt86-IPRw>

Here is a selection of their writing inspired by a section of a film called 'The Piano'.

Leo R:

As I sat by the piano dreaming, I imagined that intense moment. I was sprinting across the battlefield, my friend with me. We hid behind an old rock. We decided that my friend would go and try to attack. So, he got out from behind the rock and started to attack.....but it was too late. He fell into my arms.

Nicolas:

Arthur's fingers twinkled on the piano's keys smoothly and gently. Drifting back to a sad moment in the war, he remembered moments when his courageous friend had been shot by gun fire from the enemies. It was too late for him to be saved. Arthur felt an immense pain in his heart and would never forget these moments.

Lila:

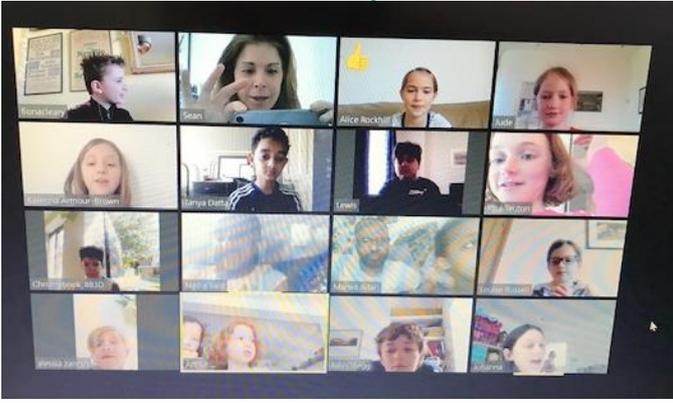
He shuddered as he thought about that sad moment. He had been in the army with his friend. They were behind a rock. His friend was about to jump out and shoot but it was too late. He fell back onto the floor. He picked him up in his arms and whispered to him "I will never forget you".

Lauren

Music

Orlando's cat Calypso has taken centre stage in some of the music videos he has been filming for children to watch and learn from at home. Orlando is wondering whether Calypso should come and teach music instead of him when school re opens!

Year 4's daily Zoom



In year 4, I intended to do a lesson over zoom. However, we were all so pleased to see each other on that first day that I decided against doing any teaching and instead every day at 10:30 we have had a zoom session where we do nothing other than chat (normally over each other rather than to each other!) On Monday, Sean delivered a bootcamp to year 4 via zoom which me and Pippa also joined in. It was a lot of fun and also exhausting. We finished for Easter with a zoom quiz covering our topic for the Spring Term, Science for Spring and also General Knowledge. I look forward to our zoom chats every day and will be continuing them after the Easter break.

Angela

Year 5 update

Year 5 have been studying a film unit called Home Sweet home, which has been really interesting and thought-provoking. This is the story of a house which escapes from its suburban foundations and sets off on an epic journey. Tackling themes of friendship and travelling in a light hearted way, Home Sweet Home combines elements of road-trip, apocalyptic and friendship narratives in its story of a couple houses travelling across America. We have debating our thoughts on the videos on our Year 5 blog and written character and setting descriptions, which will feed into your stories.

To stay fit, active and healthy we have thoroughly been enjoying completing our P.E lessons with Joe Wicks, also we are creating our own workouts now. One students workout will be chosen to complete by all Year 5 weekly!

Hassan

Year 6 update

Year 6 have really enjoyed using our blog on PurpleMash over the last two weeks. It's become our first taste of Social Media, where the children have been able to upload their own news and creations. We've loved connecting with each other through sharing our academic work. Children have also uploaded photos of art creations, baking and dinners made for their families. The class have participated in Joe Wicks PE workouts, TikTok dance parties and egg competition entries. I even managed to trick them on April Fool's day with a fake story about spaghetti grown on trees in Italy from 1957! It's been a hard two weeks, but the children haven't let the lockdown dampen their energy, spirit and commitment to each other. I am incredibly proud of them all.

Sarah

Science for Life

I have added some new links with ideas for home learning on the Science for Life website <https://sites.google.com/view/scienceforlife/home> and I will continue to update this as I find useful information. There is a 'Lab_13' blog in shared blogs on Purple Mash. I would love to hear what science the children have been undertaking at home and can answer any questions they or you might have.

Take care everyone.

Meg (Lab_13)

lab_13

Guidance for parents and carers: keeping children safe online from the Department for Education (DfE)

There is a lot of support available to keep your child safe online. Below are some useful links to help parents and carers:

Full details can be found in section 6.3 of the guidance for parents and carers on the closure of educational settings:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>