



Summer Term Issue 01

16.04.2020

Newsletter

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Welcome back, we hope you all had a wonderful Easter and managed to enjoy the fine weather in some way despite the circumstances. We were worried that two weeks with little interaction on Seesaw and Tapestry might have meant that it would take a lot of effort to get everyone back engaged in the tasks set for them by teachers but we were mistaken. Talk about hitting the ground running; no sooner had the tasks been posted than the replies started flying in and as before Easter the standard of the work has been beyond our expectations. We know this doesn't happen easily. We know that parents will have been supporting children without the training or resources that teachers have whilst managing their own busy schedules with many of you having to work at home. We know that because of parents being so busy children will have had to delve into their reserves of self-belief and have a go on their own with no help. We know that you will all have had to do this without friends to encourage you and we are all missing being able to take a break and play with those we are closest too. Yet despite all this we have come to the end of the week with a portfolio of work that any school would be proud of and you should all be proud of your individual achievements. I am about to record celebration assembly with Miss Shaw and we will award certificates to a few children from each class but just as I said in the end of term assembly 3 weeks ago it could have been pretty much anyone of you because you have all worked so very hard.

I am sure you can all appreciate that it doesn't all happen easily at this end either and I would like to say a huge thank you to the amazing team here for working so hard to make your home learning possible. Unfortunately, we don't have 29 Miss Austins and Mrs Eustices to respond to the 29 of you in their class and whilst in traditional learning they would be expected to mark 29 pieces of work in books it is far more time-consuming doing this using the seesaw app. This is not to say we are not happy with it and after seeing the experiences of other schools using alternative technologies we are more than happy that we invested our resources into it. However, as with any new technology there are occasional glitches, we are still working out the most efficient ways of using it, teachers are having to train TA's whilst preparing lessons and responding to you, and remember many of them have families at home too etc etc. We are getting there though – you will soon see TA's becoming more active in their respective roles and next week teachers will be attempting to introduce some topic learning alongside the core subjects of English and maths.

With all this in mind I would like to make two very important caveats. Firstly, from the home end of distance learning the core curriculum should remain the priority – every day there will still be a maths and an English task to complete and these should be done whenever possible. It might be tempting to join in with one of Mrs Haddy's brilliant 'draw alongs' and I have loved looking at all the responses to the PSHE task this week but please don't forget English and maths. You don't have to follow the normal school day which tends to be maths and English in the morning and the rest of the curriculum in the afternoon (although that is an option). However, one of the benefits of this new way of learning is that you can take control in a way that suits you best; I know many are starting the day with Joe Wicks and Mr Buckley will be starting to post some physical activities to break up the day or kickstart your learning. Just make sure you try and keep on top of maths and English alongside other learning. Related to this is a second caveat that although teachers will post other activities related to the topic, they will concentrate their feedback on the core curriculum to help ensure progress. Therefore, if you have spent an hour creating a beautiful piece of art and your teacher only gives it a 'like' yet they respond to a multiplication maths task you actually found boring – do not be upset. We love to see all your work and value all types of learning but we are aware that as primary teachers we do need to have a focus on the core as being able to read, write and calculate underpin so much of what you might choose to do as you get older. Please also be aware that we love to see other learning and experiences that you have at home but every time you post something on Seesaw a teacher has to spend some time to approve it due to the way the app works so be careful not to over post.

I hope all this makes sense and I hope you all know that we value all your efforts and only wish you could see the smiles, the gasps of delight and sometimes the tears (in the best way) on the faces of your teachers when your work arrives across the ether. We are in this together and we can do this and if there is one thing that these testing times will teach us it is that we all have an inner resilience that when tapped into helps us achieve remarkable things as a 99 years old war veteran proved so admirably this week. Have a great weekend and we look forward to seeing all your efforts again next week.

Mr Gardiner

THIS TERM'S THEME: *Footprints*

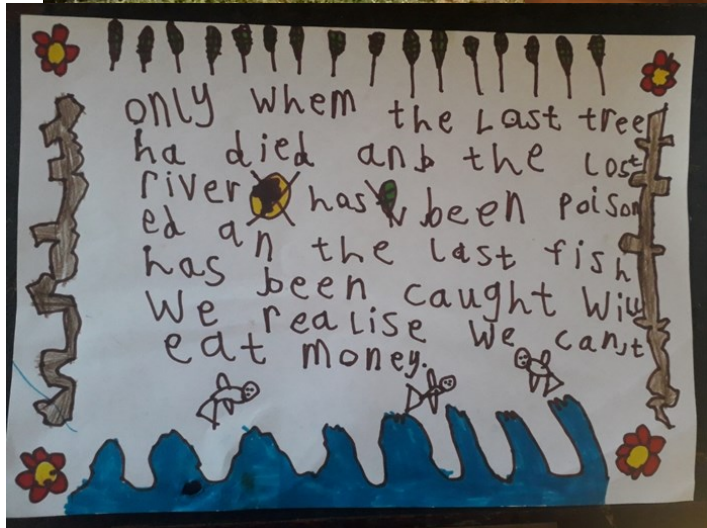
HEADLINES: *Space Ship Earth*

WORDS OF WISDOM: *The only thing that will fulfil my needs is knowing my home is safe (Sophia B)*

MUSICIAN OF THE WEEK: *Credence Clearwater Revival*

VIRTUE OF THE WEEK: *Being able to use resources wisely*

QUESTION: *Is Earth the only planet with life ?*





STARS OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to the following children for their fantastic learning. Thank you.

Poldhu

Ethan for fantastic independent maths

Lottie for a very creative Easter collage

Amelie for working really hard on letter formation

Taylor for working really hard with your handwriting

Mia for super spellings

Kynance

Felix for an inspiring PSHE poster

Evie for great storytelling with actions

Jack B for inventive experiments with boats

Rory for a fantastic self-made fraction wall

Oska for a great PSHE poster and great storytelling



STARS OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to the following children for their fantastic learning. Thank you.

Godrevy

Seren for a great kenning

Isabelle for a beautiful PSHE poster

Alfie H for superb effort during work on metaphors

Caja for great determination during egg hunt

Brandon for great improvement in the reading of tricky words

Rinsey

Willow for independent study into birds

Sophia for her PSHE quote

Jack for polite and friendly voice comments accompanying lovely work

Rosie for being the first online each day, working hard

Lola for submitting work carefully