



Our Lady's Catholic Primary School

Lockdown Newsletter

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Issue 2 – 5th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well. As the nights draw out and the daffodils spring out of the ground, there is definitely the sense that we are moving towards a return to school for many of the children. We cannot wait to have them back!

We expect to receive some clearer direction on Monday 22nd February. We will then start our planning for how we will welcome children back to school. We don't know whether this will be a return for some year groups, as was the case at the end of the first lockdown, or a full return for all. What we do know is that any changes will not take effect until Monday 8th March at the earliest.

Up until then we will continue to provide our remote curriculum, mindful that this will adapt in light of any government guidance later this month. Once again, thank you for your support in helping the children with their learning. I hope you are enjoying the change to Friday afternoons and the move away from screens? Remember the staff are here to support you in any way we can, so please don't hesitate to ask.

There will be no work set for the half-term week and the school will be CLOSED for **all** children. There is a planned INSET on Monday 22nd February so the school will reopen for children currently attending school on Tuesday 23rd February.

It is with sadness that the school says goodbye to Mrs Barnes at the end of the month. Mrs Barnes has been a wonderful member of the school team and she will be greatly missed by all of us. We wish her well for the future and hope she is not a stranger to the school.

Have a restful weekend and stay safe.

Mr Meech, Executive Headteacher

KEEP US, GOOD LORD,
UNDER THE SHADOW OF YOUR MERCY.
SUSTAIN AND SUPPORT THE ANXIOUS,
BE WITH THOSE WHO CARE FOR THE SICK,
AND LIFT UP ALL WHO ARE BROUGHT LOW;
THAT WE MAY FIND COMFORT
KNOWING THAT NOTHING CAN SEPARATE US FROM YOUR LOVE
IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD.
AMEN.



BARN A BS PRE-SCHOOL

We loved "One Snowy Night" by Nick Butterworth. We found out about our wonderful native British animals, and we dressed up in Percy the Park Keeper hats and played in Percy's Hut.

We were really lucky to meet Our Lady's very own "Percy"...Boniface our caretaker. He showed us the Hoover, how to change the bag and we all had a go.

Boniface bought in some tools to show us, which fascinated the children, and again, everyone wanted a go!





We are looking forward to celebrating Chinese New Year next week. It's the year of the Ox. So get the wok out at home and make a Chinese feast, and don't forget the fortune cookies!



ROBIN CLASS

Hello everyone!

I hope you are all staying safe and enjoying your learning!

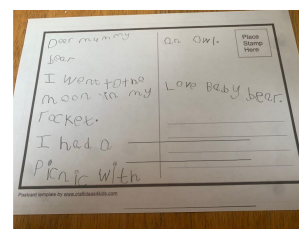
Let me start by saying wow! Robins - you are amazing! I am so proud of you all! Our youngest children continue to amaze me with their enthusiasm for the home learning tasks. You are all doing so incredibly well and you are all superstars! I know your grown ups at home are so proud of you all too!



We continue to meet every morning for our video call. As we have all settled into this new routine, we have been engaging in some 'live lessons' together. Sometimes we have played phonics, learning new sounds and practicing our blending skills with Fred the Frog! Sometimes we have played maths games to help our number skills; we love bingo in Reception! At the end of the day we come together and share our learning and work for the day; I love to see what you have all been doing and hearing you talk about your learning!



Continuing with our topic of Day and Night, we have enjoyed lots of lovely stories over the last couple of weeks. Our favourite was 'Whatever Next!', where baby bear goes to the moon in his rocket and has a picnic with an owl! We



thought about what we would take to the moon and wrote postcards to mummy bear! The children have been so engaged in this story and wanted to find out more about space!



They have led their own learning around planets, we have made rockets and aliens, and have played lots of space games to support our maths and phonics learning.

In phonics we have been learning new 'Special Friends'. The children have been working hard on spotting these new sounds in words and on using them to spell words. We have been learning new 'tricky words' every week to help us with our fluency; the children are getting really good at these!

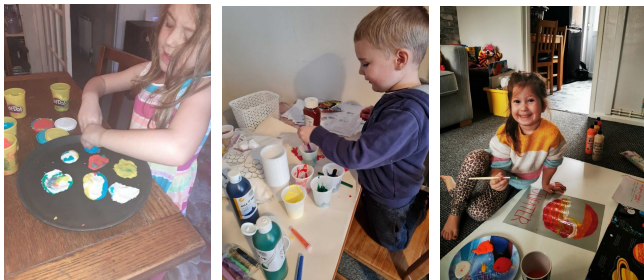
We love the Number blocks and have been using this programme to help us in beginning to explore numbers beyond ten. We have also been continuing our work on addition, really



focusing on our number bonds to ten. We have started to look at doubling; the children seem to have really grasped this concept!

The Robins continue to enjoy creative learning activities.

This week we have been looking at colour mixing, great fun! We read the story of The Mixed Up Chameleon and then had fun creating our own mixed up creatures! We have also read the story of The Colour Monster to help us explore our feelings during these strange times.



Parents, I would like to thank you all for your continued support and enthusiasm! I know it has been tricky at times, but we are nearly there! I love to look on Tapestry and Dojo and see all of the children's learning; I can see so much progress, particularly in the children's fine motor skills and writing. I am so impressed with some of the games and fun ways you have come up with to support your children's learning – I will be pinching some of them! 😊

Please continue to stay safe and well, and I look forward to seeing you all soon!

Mrs Jury.

HERON CLASS

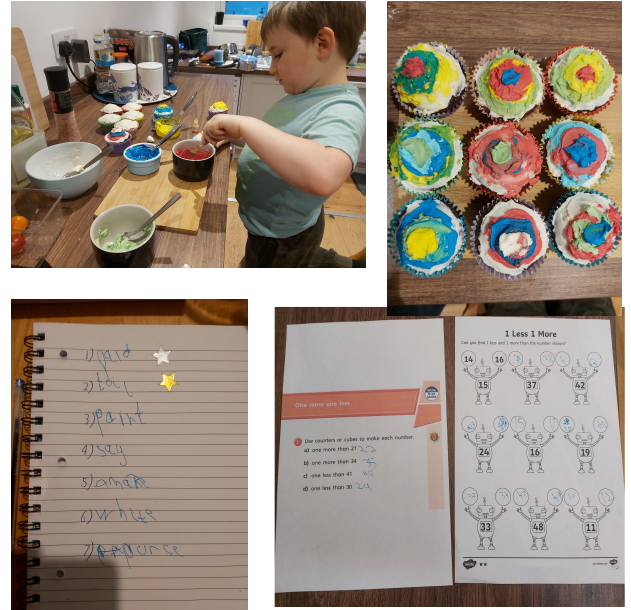
Hello everyone.

I hope everyone is well and enjoying their learning. Heron Class have been continuing to do their school work at home. We have all been working really hard and I am so impressed with your continued enthusiasm.

Heron children continue to meet virtually online, to say hello, show our school work and even play a few games. The children complete

their work in a variety of ways, some on computers and some on paper worksheets. I love to see their work that they share :-) it makes me smile. So many clever children in Heron Class!

Dylan has been working really hard, some photos of his work are here on the Newsletter. We have learnt about the abstract artist Kandinsky. Dylan completed his work and made some creative cupcakes!



The Heron Class have also been learning a story about a naughty pixie called Pippety. He goes around creating all sorts of mischief. He loves rainbows, see if you can go around your house and collect something for each colour of the rainbow. A red object, an orange object, a yellow object etc. Rainbows are a positive symbol.

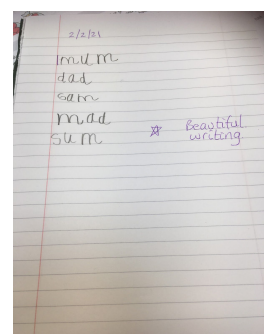
I thank the adults at home for their positivity, patience and support during this time.

Stay safe and take care, Miss Wilby

KESTRAL CLASS

(KS1 KEY WORKER CLASS)

Kestrels have continued to be enthusiastic learners over the last two weeks.



Dear Kestrals,
I Will try to do good now.
I hope the room is tidy
and you will write me
another story with me
in it. NBx

BRITANNICA

read it all (we think he needs to go back to school to improve!).

Two children's drawings are shown. The left drawing is titled "Night Bus" and depicts a red bus with a driver. The right drawing is also titled "Night Bus" and depicts a blue bus with a driver. Both drawings are signed "by Ella" and "Kestrel Lockdown Class 2021".

authors! We are very proud of ourselves and our finished books.

A group of children are sitting around a red table, playing a matching game. They are using cards that show various animals and insects, such as a spider, a bee, a butterfly, a frog, a turtle, a snake, a lizard, a bird, a fish, and a cat. The children are pointing at the cards and talking to each other.

different Habitats. Year 2s have started looking at the adaptations some animals have

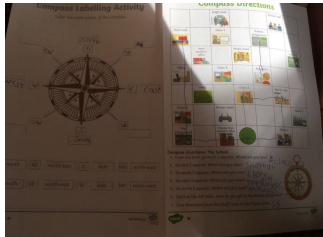
A photograph showing a group of children and adults gathered around a long red table. The table is covered with various nature-themed cards and illustrations, including a butterfly, a bird, a tree, a flower, and a landscape. The children are looking at the cards and discussing them. The setting appears to be an outdoor or semi-outdoor area with a wooden floor.

Mrs Everett, Mrs Harmer, Miss Goodman, Mrs Shapland and all the Kestrel children from Y1 and Year 2.

light
 fight
 high
 light
 night
 hand
 skip
 wife
 pure
 rule
 fear
 vile
 fast
 pain

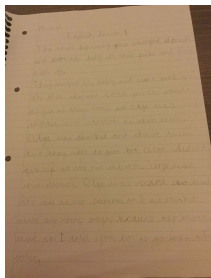
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have been grouping different animals and learning scientific vocabulary such as mammal, reptile and amphibian. During topic this week we learnt about the compass points, then we used this knowledge for a game and after this some of us used this to find out which



countries were in the north and south of England.

We have discovered we love hangman and are asking Mrs Cohen regularly if we can play it. She really had us stumped with the word 'challenge'. She nearly won that point.

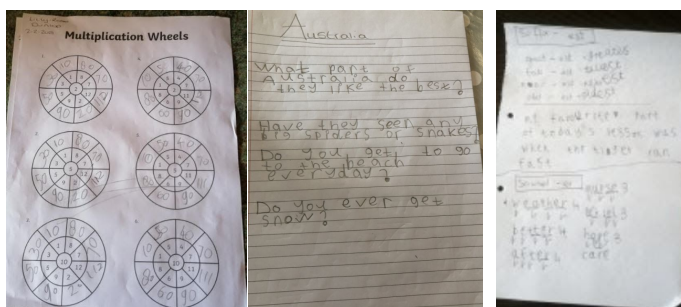


Puffins would love to say a big thank you to all the adults and carers for all the help and support you are giving us in this unusual time and helping

us to make this a fun and exciting learning experience.

Take care, stay safe and keep smiling. We are all very proud of all of your hard work and perseverance.

Mrs Cohen

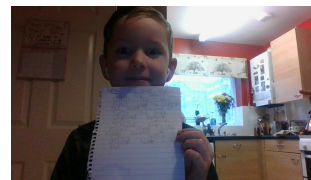


OWL CLASS

This week in Owl's class, we have started our new Talk for Writing unit all about Unicorns...we are very excited! In our first lesson we created our very own mythical creatures, they are all unique and very creative.

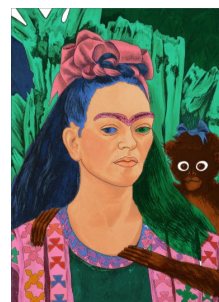


We have also been doing lots of practice to help us to improve our rapid recall of our four times tables.



During our R.E lessons, we have thought about sharing and looked at how foodbanks can help families who are struggling at this time. The class made some fantastic posters encouraging those who can to donate!

In addition to this, we have also been thinking about our mental health and discussed the difficulties we experience when trying to express ourselves. We have used colours and the weather to try to explain the feelings inside our head.



Alongside this, we thought about ways to feel better so we have been practicing yoga, meditation and soaking up some art and culture on the Google Art and Culture platform.

It has been a great week and the Owls have been working hard to produce some excellent work.

Ms Massey and Mrs Harding

EAGLE CLASS

Hello Everyone,

We hope you are staying safe and having fun with your learning!

Eagle team are continuing to blow Miss Knill away with their positive attitudes and commitment to their learning. We are working hard and having lots of fun in our home learning adventure. Some of us have started to find it tricky not seeing our friends but we are remembering to spend time every day doing something we love. There are lots of challenges but even more smiles as we feel moments of success!

In Maths we completed our Multiplication and Division unit but know it is still important to practice our times tables every day. We are now learning about shape and area which is exciting and new for us! In English, we got creative and finished writing our BFG stories. They were FANTASTIC! We are now starting a new text called 'Uncovered Unicorns' and we are excited to create our own mythical creatures. We know that we are really good at listening to others but we are now thinking about how we do this following Jesus as our role model in RE. As geographers we are exploring and deepening our locational knowledge of the United Kingdom. As scientists we are focusing on our practical skills and excited to put these into use when we return to school. We also have been valuing the importance of keeping safe online! This week in PSHE we wrote letters to thank our heroes, thinking about the impact these people have on our lives. Throughout our home learning journey we are focusing on keeping a positive mental health. This week we have been thinking about how we express ourselves particularly our emotions through colours, we loved reading the colour monster to help us!

On a Friday we love taking part in the 'Minute To Win It' challenge as a whole class. We are a very competitive team, we always beat Miss Knill and it makes us all laugh! We love spending time together on google meets, learning and playing games to keep up our team spirit.

As a team we want to say a BIG thank you to everyone who is helping us at the moment. Thank you to Mr Meech, the team at school and most importantly our parents. Thank you for helping us with our learning, providing us with endless snacks and making us smile! All these things mean we can still do what we love best, learning and having fun.

Keep smiling, keep learning and keep having fun!

Miss Knill and Eagle Class :-)

Take a look at some of our wonderful work:



1.2.21 - PSHE

School

Our Lady's Catholic

Barnstaple
1 February 2021

To my Teacher Heroes

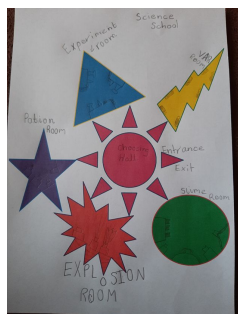
I am writing this letter to thank all the amazing teachers at Our Lady's school, for all their hard work and support they have given us all during this horrible time. I would especially like to thank my wonderful teacher Miss Knill, she has been wonderful and is always there if we need her. I can't wait to come back to school. Thank you all so much for what you do, your strength and kindness are greatly appreciated. Thank you so much.
Thankfully From Paige Loman.



KINGFISHER CLASS

What a busy couple of weeks we've had! Year 5 have been working their socks off and I am so impressed with their commitment and determination! Children both at home and in school continue to keep up with the Year 5 curriculum, all following the same timetable. Those of us at home see each other several times a day and as we now have 'Live' lessons, those in school can join us too!

Every day, we have Reading, English and Maths lessons and all try to do some physical exercise. We are keeping up with our Class Story, the children's classic 'The Secret Garden' and have a quiz every Friday morning.



We cover the other subjects each afternoon and also have challenges and additional tasks to do, so we are all kept busy! Some subjects overlap, such as representing RE through Art or Computing. On Friday afternoons, we keep

our emotional wellbeing healthy by spending time with our family doing things like baking or creating



something. For example, this week it's Bird Watching and making bird feeders 😊

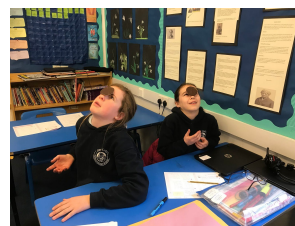
A special mention needs to go to the following children who have been working exceptionally hard and have shown they really know right from wrong by trying to help me. I am very proud of them: **Annie-Rose, Alisha, Lillia, Ryan, Lily-May, Simone, Maci, Elliott, Thekla, Leah, Bailey and Poppy-Amelia.**

Mrs Chavasse

BUZZARDS CLASS

(YEAR 5/6 KEY WORKER CLASS)

Buzzards have been working so hard over the last couple of weeks! They have shown resilience, determination and perseverance during challenging tasks. We have focused on our mental health and well being, looking at different ways we can improve our mental health, as well as thinking of ways in which we can support each other. They have energetically continued to participate in PE and Joe Wicks, come rain or shine!



One of our highlights has to be the One Minute Biscuit challenge set by Miss Knewcombe and Miss Knill which the

children participated in very enthusiastically! Another highlight was taking part in the BBC Live Winter Bird Watch and making our own bird feeders. By hanging our bird feeders near our class window, we are hoping to spy on our feathery friends and collect data!



Buzzards have continued to show a great attitude to their learning, using a combination of Live Lessons on Google meet and learning in class.

Mrs Hynes

SWALLOW CLASS

What does **LOCKDOWN** look like for Swallow Class?

Learning. Swallows continue to work hard across all lessons, keeping up their high engagement skills in lessons.

Obviously, some days are tough but we have found that when we have lots of tired and occasionally grumpy faces, Miss Newcombe everyone dance - even though it's super embarrassing.

Cakes galore! Thanks to the Swallow Lockdown Bake Off, where we had many AMAZING and DELICIOUS entries (and no soggy bottoms).



Choosing a winner was super tricky because they were all so good. In the end Tia Barnett won the Inspiration Award for encouraging her

sisters to bake their own cake. Chloe-Jo won the Storytelling Award because she so beautifully decorated her vanilla and lemon sponge with creations of what she has been up to during Lockdown 3.0. And George won our Overall Star Baker Award with his 3D spectacular Virus cake that would most certainly get a handshake from Paul Hollywood.



Kicking Corona blues away. We have begun a February challenge which is called 'How Many Marathons in a Month?' Everyday when Swallow Class and their families get out for their permitted exercise, we log the distances in a Google Form to see how many miles we can make up altogether over the month. We know how important it



is for our minds to be healthy and I have already received a multitude of messages to say that children and parents alike have started the Couch to 5k together - what a wonderful way to spend time with the family and reminding ourselves to look after each other's well-being.

Downtime. Whilst we have been working super hard. It is really important for children to remember that it is okay to take a break and have some time off screens, doing what you like.

Over and above. Swallow Class are pushing themselves to be the best they can be and I am incredibly proud of each and every one of them.

We have been nice and busy in our lessons. Currently, we are learning about Monsters in our English lessons and aim to make a whole class Monsterology by the end of next week. We are working on decimals in Maths, Europe in Geography and Pre-historic times in History. In RE, we have just finished our unit on Community and look forward to working on our new Topic.

Next week, Swallow Class are in for a treat because we have: Children's Timetable Takeover. I have spoken with parents and children to see what they like to get up to in the afternoons so we can do more of what they enjoy in their learning.

Stay safe,
Miss Newcombe

SCHOOL WEBSITE

Miss Newcombe and Miss Knill have been busy putting together some fun 1 minute challenges for you to try at home. Please take a look:-

<https://sites.google.com/olcs.uk/missknillandmissnewcombe/minute-to-win-it>

Children's Mental Health Week

Free resources for Children's Mental Health Week 2021 From 1-7 February 2021, we're taking part in Place2Be's Children's Mental Health Week. This year's theme is Express Yourself.

Place2Be has created activities and resources to help children (and adults) to explore the different ways that they can share their thoughts, feelings and ideas. There are lots of resources on the Children's Mental Health Week website that you can use with your child at home; including activity ideas, tips for parents and carers, and an online assembly which will be available from Monday 1 February.

Visit www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk to find out more

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

- EVE DAUNTON, SENCO

If your child has special educational needs, supporting them at home during lockdown offers its own unique set of challenges. Here are some useful tips for supporting your child's physical and emotional well-being as well as their academic activities:

- Have a good structure and routine to each day- use a daily timetable.
- Build in regular breaks and encourage movement between activities for example wall push ups and army crawls.
- Allow children to use elastic bands, fabrics or fiddle toys to help them concentrate.
- Limit how long your child spends on each task.
- Break tasks down into smaller steps which can be ticked off.
- Encourage and celebrate effort and independence.
- Use speech to text and text readers available as 'add-ons' on google docs.
- Use an overlay colour to reduce visual stress

<https://www.aurelitec.com/colorveil/windows/>

- Take looking breaks from the screen using the 20/20/20 rule. Every 20 minutes, spend 20 seconds looking 20 feet away. A good chance to play eye spy out of the window!
- Take time to play, share a story or go for a walk; well-being activities are just as important as academic activities. Please take a look at the PE and well-being activities on our website http://www.ourladydevon.sch.uk/website/website_links/457923 for some ideas.

Finally, please remember if tensions rise, stop, take a break and do something different!

If you have any queries or would like to arrange an appointment for a telephone call or online chat, please get in touch at: senco@olcs.uk

