



Our Lady's Catholic Primary School

Lockdown Newsletter

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Issue 3 – 5th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We are so excited to welcome all of the children back to school on Monday 8th March. I would like to express my gratitude to all members of the school community for the way in which you have responded during this latest lockdown. It has been a real team effort and because of the commitment and dedication that has been shown by all, I know that the children will soon be thriving back in school.

You would have received detailed information earlier in the week on how the transition back to school will work. It is very similar to September 2020, and thus be familiar to both yourselves and the children. If you haven't received this please contact the school office.

Myself, and the team have been working really hard to get the school ready for Monday. We have completed a detailed action plan that has been signed off by the Plymouth CAST Executive Board.

The safety of the children and staff is my number one priority and I can assure you that, in accordance with DFE and CAST advice, the school has put in place all possible preventive measures. We will continue to review our procedures and we will make you aware of any changes as and when they occur.

If you have any questions or queries in the meantime, please raise these in the usual way with your child's class teacher. I wish you all a restful and safe weekend and look forward to seeing you all next week.

Mr Meech, Executive Headteacher

BARN A BS PRE-SCHOOL



hugs

We have had a great time settling back in after half term. Jack and the beanstalk has created lots of excitement and collaborative play. We've tried pancakes (dairy free ones too). We've promised to eat less sugar for Lent, and give more love and hugs (to people we are allowed to hug), so make sure you're getting lots of lovely

from

your

children!

We've practised walking in Jesus' footsteps, and made our own footsteps in paint. so if you notice any green or yellow toes that's why! We are doing the Little Red Hen story next, so lots of baking at home!

Thanks for all your support.

ROBIN CLASS

Hello everyone! I hope you all had a lovely half term whilst staying safe!



It's won't be long now until you are all back in school. Myself and Mrs Laird are really looking forward to having you all back in the classroom! It might take a few days to settle back into routine but it will be so

lovely to all be back together again and to see, play and learn with all of our friends!





Our Robins have continued to amaze me with their enthusiasm for the home learning tasks. The children have continued to work so hard even in that last week before half term, and all returned to remote learning with big smiles

😊 All of the teachers in school and your grown-ups at home are so proud of you! Our daily video calls have been a great way to see each other, to chat and to learn! At the end of the day we have been coming together to 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!



Before half term, we celebrated Chinese New Year! We had great fun building the Great Wall of China with Lego and Blocks,

making paper lanterns and learning all about the story of the Zodiac and the river race! We even tasted some Chinese food! Yummy! In school, we had a great time dragon dancing in the hall!



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 enjoyed having

our guest teacher 'Rosie' helping us to learn! The Robins have been beginning to learn all about taking away in maths and we have enjoyed lots of practical activities to help us with this understanding. I am so impressed with the children's enthusiasm for their new weekly maths quizzes, well done everyone!



This half term, we have enjoyed the stories of 'The Train Ride' and 'Mr Gumpy's Outing'. We have loved learning about trains and boats, and have

had a go at some fun science experiments! We built ramps and found out how far a train could travel on different surfaces, and investigated floating and sinking with different objects.



Parents, I would like to thank you all for your continued support and enthusiasm throughout this period of remote learning! I love to look on Tapestry and Dojo and see all of the children's learning; please continue to share your weekend adventures and learning with me when the children return to school. I know you will all miss your children next week when they return to the classroom and I am sure it will be strange without them, but please know what an amazing part you have played in supporting them through their learning journey in their first year at school and be proud of what you have done! 😊



Please continue to stay safe and well, and I look forward to seeing you all on Monday morning!

Mrs Jury.



HERON CLASS

A message from Heron Class and Miss Wilby



Hello everyone. I hope everyone is well and enjoying their learning (and the sunshine when it appears). Well done for all your hard work during this lockdown period. I am so thankful for all the support from parents and

your enthusiasm for home learning. You are all amazing! The children have been fantastic.

Since half term, we have been doing lots of work. We have been learning about measure and children have been busy measuring lots of different items. We have been learning a story about a bubble called Bob, have started our Lenten journey and much more :-)



I'm looking forward to next week when we can all be back in school together. Just like before Christmas things will be a bit different for example, the tables are separated, we have our own resources and do lots of hand washing! The children are

always very quick to adapt to any new changes and I know that they will work hard to keep themselves and their friends safe.

We are all excited to see each other and return to school. See you on the 8th :-)

KESTREL CLASS

(KS1 KEY WORKER CLASS)



Just prior to half-term, and whilst learning about the Continent of Asia, Kestrel class enjoyed learning about the Lunar New Year. We discovered this is celebrated across Asia and not just in China.

We learned how and why the Chinese Zodiac was created and used Ordinal numbers to learn the sequence of animals: 1st, 2nd, 3rd etc. We loved the story of The Great Race and worked out that Kestrel class is made up from many Goats, Snakes and Horses. Miss Goodman (x2), Miss Sloman and Mrs



Harmer were all born in the Year of the Ox, so 2021 is a special year for them all!

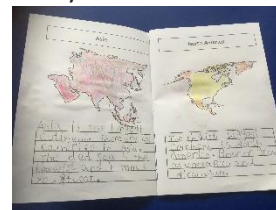
We loved all the fun art and craft activities during the last week of half-term, and made a bright and



colourful display filled with dragons and symbols to hopefully bring us good luck for the coming year, just as families do in their homes across Asia. We finished the week by eating some Panda sweets from China and tasting delicious prawn crackers, too!



We have learned many interesting facts about Asia and, during our final week together, we investigated North America and Africa - we are all keen Geographers now and have many landmarks we all want to visit!



Our class story was The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark for the last few weeks of Kestrel class. We loved reading

about Plop, the baby barn owl, who struggles to be like other owls. The children made great predictions about each chapter and related their own experiences to the text. We finished the book by creating our own collage Plop to remember our story.



Kestrels had a lovely time together since January, but we are all looking forward to seeing all of our friends back at school and to be working with our usual classroom adults. We want to say a big thank you to our Teaching Assistants for making our time together so special: Mrs Sutton (briefly!), Mrs

Harmer, Mrs Shapland, Miss Goodman and Miss Goodman. Thank you too to Miss Sloman and Mr Sutton for keeping us active every day in PE. Thank you- you're all wonderful!

Mrs Everett

PUFFIN CLASS

Hello friends,

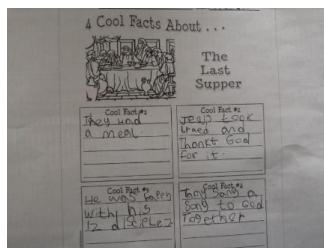
Well firstly let me say how blown away I am by all the learning and hard work that has been going on during our time of home learning. We have all been working very hard. It's different but we get to do a variety of things that is exciting and the energy and smiles that Puffins are sharing is



infectious.

In maths we have been making tallies and looking at shapes. We have then used this to read graphs. It has been very interesting. In English we have been learning about a myth set

in Ancient Greece called The Magical Teaching Box. We have designed our own Pandora's box, thought about what was in it and used



our imagination to think about the gods. RE has helped us to learn more about the mass and look at how we remember things. For Science we have



looked at things that are alive, not alive and things that have never been alive and then we went on a walk to look for signs of spring. During topic we have looked at temperature zones and what countries are in these zones. We have also enjoyed painting some aboriginal art.



We have discovered we love hangman so much we are going to start playing it in class with new words.

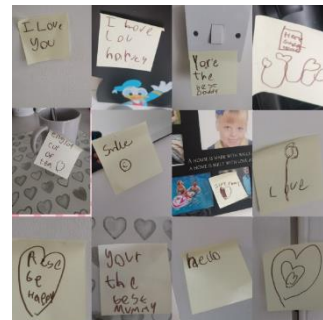
There have been some words that nearly got the whole hangman drawn.

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 sees our English sequence of work *Unicorns Uncovered* conclude. The topic has been super successful and fun to teach also—one of my favourites being the short-burst poetry and the potions. We have had some terrific final pieces of work and hope for the children to bring theirs in from home to add to our display.

Friendship Potion

Drinking this potion will make every living thing around you become your friend.

Ingredients:

A cupful of pink hearts
A jar full of ground friendship unicorn horn
A spoonful of hugs
5 daffodils
A tablespoons of happy smiles
A jug of hot chocolate

How to make the potion:

1. Firstly pour the cupful of pink hearts and the jug of hot chocolate into a big mixing bowl.
2. Secondly sprinkle the ground unicorn horn into the mixing bowl with the pink hearts and hot chocolate.
3. Next stir in the spoonful of hugs very carefully.
4. Then bake the daffodils in the oven until they are gold and crispy then whisk them into the mixing bowl with the other ingredients.
5. Add the happy smiles then blend it all together.
6. Finally pour into a cup then drink it straight away.

Have a go at writing your own poem about the ice unicorn below

The ice unicorn rode powerfully through the waves,
Whipping his frozen tail against the frozen icicles.
His smooth, reflective horn of ice pointing the way
You'd be fooled to think he was out to play.

His striking legs are thrashing against the icy waves,
Forcing his way through the elements.
His smooth, glistening coat is dusty grey
A beautiful picture, I must say.



In maths, the Owls have had time to revisit and practice their times-tables. We have seen some tremendous progress in this area, so well done, you guys. When we return to school, we will continue with multiplication and division, picking up from wherever is needed.

We have begun a new topic in science, focusing on animals, including humans. So far, we have revisited their prior knowledge about food groups for humans but have expanded to look at the similarities and differences of nutrition in other animals and plants. We have distinguished between herbivores, carnivores, and omnivores and come to understand that each animal within a particular group will also need variation in its nutrition.

With the current lockdown beginning to ease and children returning to school, it is a time for reflection and a time of thanks. We thank you, the children, for your dedication and perseverance to keep going, and we thank you, the parents and carers, for your continued support and patience.

We so look forward to seeing you all next week.

Mrs Harding, Miss Massey and Miss Reed

EAGLE CLASS

Hello Everyone,



What an incredible home learning journey we have had! Children at OLCS you have shone like shining stars and we could not be any prouder of you all.

Over the last few weeks we have been busy continuing to grow our brains and learn lots of new skills. In

Maths we have been developing our fractions skills, this has been a challenge but we have persevered together.

In English we have been writing non-fiction texts about Unicorns. We have been able to let our imaginations run wild and have used some

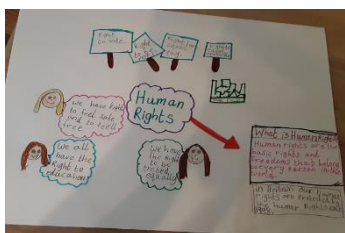


excellent vocabulary. As geographers we have continued our journey to deepen our knowledge about the United Kingdom. As scientists we have started learning about states of matter, we are so excited to get back in the classroom for lots of practical experiments.

We have also embarked on our Lenten Journey, starting by thinking about self-discipline and how we can bring our hearts closer to God during this special time. Throughout our home learning journey we have loved using different resources for our learning to develop our computing and practical skills.



We have loved building dens, exploring the outdoors in the sunshine and even tried some baking with Miss Knill (she definitely



needs to practice!). We continue to meet online with our friends at home and in school. During this time we celebrate our learning and love



playing games, especially the animal game, bingo and scavenger hunts with Maddison as our reigning champion!

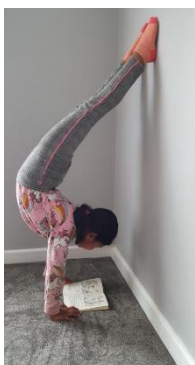
As a team we want to say a BIG thank you to everyone who has helped us on our lockdown journey. Thank you for helping us with our learning, making us smile and showing true dedication to help us be the best we can be.



Eagles, you are AMAZING! The last eight weeks you have continued your learning journey from your home and always tried your best. You have kept a positive attitude and shown true determination through the tears and laughter. I beam with pride as you are so thoughtful and helpful to your friends despite not being together. Remember you are now part of History and the real superheroes! I am so excited to welcome you back into the classroom on Monday, I can not wait to see your smiling faces and be back as a team. I hope you are ready for lots of fun!

Keep smiling, keep learning and keep having fun!
Miss Knill and Eagle Class :-)

KINGFISHER CLASS



Kingfishers are really excited about school getting back to normal on March 8th, but have continued to make the most of all learning opportunities both in school and at home. Since Half Term, we've had great fun learning about rhythm and sequencing beats in Music lessons. Elliott signposted us to a

great app which enabled us to compose our own

music. Take a look if you're interested:

<https://musiclab.chromeexperiments.com/>

We've practised our persuasive writing skills, designing healthy snacks and learnt about the properties of 2D and 3D shape. Our Arithmetic Test scores have really improved over Lockdown! It just goes to show how important and effective regular practice is!



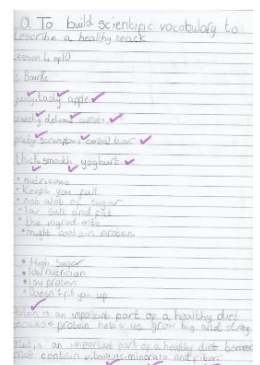
Homemade Potions by Ryan



We celebrated World Book Day by finding extreme places to read, making characters out of potatoes, drawing with Rob Biddulph and testing our knowledge with a bumper quiz! What a great day ☺

Once we're back on Monday, we'll be making sure that we're all back on track to finish off Year 5 successfully. Our PE lessons (volleyball) will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays, though we will also be doing workouts on the other days, so having a pair of trainers in our school bags every day would be a good idea. Remember to wear school PE kit on Tuesday and Thursdays only. Our classroom will continue to be well-ventilated with windows and doors open, so it would be a good idea to wear extra layers under your uniform!

As a reminder, Mrs Chavasse will be in class on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Tuesday will be



shared between Ms Massey and Mrs Hynes. Thursdays will be with Ms Massey all day.

I'm so proud of how hard my class has worked from home during this Lockdown. The commitment of our children and the unwavering support of parents has been truly humbling. Thank you to everyone and I look forward to welcoming you back on Monday at 8.45.

Mrs Chavasse

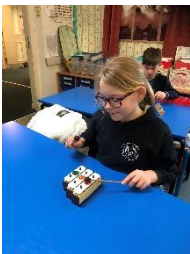
BUZZARDS CLASS

(YEAR 5/6 KEY WORKER CLASS)



Buzzard Class have been amazing in the last few weeks of lockdown. They have continued to show resilience, grow in independence,

maintained their enthusiasm and been a real delight to be with! They have continued to show perseverance and commitment to all their learning, diligently covering the online curriculum and class-based learning, fully engaging with their given tasks.



For our daily Act of Worship, we gave ourselves time around our lighted candle, to reflect on the different aspects of Lent. In our Music we loved playing and performing on chime bars using different rhythms, following notation, creating our own class

composition, culminating in a mini concert to Mrs. Welland!



We really enjoyed using air dry clay to make our own little gifts for Mother's Day, and then painted them. We continued to keep an eye out for any birds that visited our bird feeders hanging near our classroom. And of course kept ourselves fit with daily PE, and sometimes Joe Wicks.

They thoroughly enjoyed keeping in contact with all their class friends via Google Classroom Meets, and are eagerly anticipating their return next week! It has been a busy time during this last lockdown, but a unique and hugely rewarding time.



It's been a real privilege to get to know each member of Buzzard Class in even greater depth, and seeing them all flourish and thrive. They can all be immensely proud of themselves and all their achievements.



Thank you Buzzard Class for being so amazing!!

Mrs. Hynes



SWALLOW CLASS

Hello everyone!



Well firstly, isn't it exciting that we can return to school on Monday? I cannot wait to get back in the classroom after many weeks out and cracking on with some more hard work once we are back. Year 6 children have been exploring statistics in Maths, Metre in Music, Europe in Geography and Poetry in English. Oh and of course - LOTS of Rob Biddulph drawing.

Children were inspired to write poetry based on collective nouns and some even made up their own collective nouns - A sting of jellyfish is a fantastic example. I have included some examples to share with you.

Collective Noun Poetry

**An army of ants collected their food,
While the donkey sulked, in a bad mood.
A flock of birds started to sing,
As the lion roared "I AM KING!"**

**A school of fish swam together,
While the bats hid from the awful weather.
A pit of snakes hissed out loud,
As the lion roared "I AM PROUD!"**

**A cete of badgers munched on mice,
While a troupe of monkeys looked for lice.
As the lion cub began to cry,
The lion said "I'm by your side".**

Solomon Davey

**A bundle of busy buzzing bees,
Swarming like a hurricane through the trees.
An army of angry armoured ants arrive,
Fighting to keep their colony alive.**

**A cloud of koalas what a surprise,
You could hardly even believe your eyes.
A quiver of cobras slither on through,
A flock of mice scuttle by too.**

**A herd of deer jump through the air,
A flag of baboons that don't even care.
Beautiful butterflies gracefully flap their wings,
And in the distance a bluebird sings.**

Evie Jones

We have taken part in a Science Lab coat competition and hopefully Reese's fabulous design will win - Fingers crossed.



It was World Book Day on Thursday 4th March and so we took part in lots of different challenges, as well as some EXTREME READING! We decorated potatoes as our own book character and they are spudtastic!



I know that coming back can be quite a scary thought. However, once you're in with all your friends it will feel so much better and hopefully you will be really happy to be back learning with us. We have some nice activities planned for your return.

I would just like to personally thank parents, grandparents, carers, ANYONE who has helped support children's learning. I have been completely overwhelmed by how determined and dedicated everyone has been and it is incredibly impressive the amount of work that has been completed to such a high level. I cannot wait to get going again and prove (I'm not sure how we can top it) what an amazing bunch of Year 6s you are.

See you on Monday!

Miss Newcombe

SCHOOL WEBSITE

On line Safety

Please be aware that due to the recent lockdowns and increase in online activity there has been an increase in live streaming and social media platforms. Many of these platforms/websites/apps are not suitable for children and unfortunately

many sites are not following the correct protocols i.e. no age verification in place. This can make it very easy for anyone to join inappropriate sites. We strongly encourage you to review your parent controls, this website explains how to set up parent controls at home:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

- EVE DAUNTON, SENCO

Early Help:

Lockdown has been a challenging time for families in many ways including emotionally and financially. If your circumstances have changed and you would like some support or signposting to services who may be able to help you, please book an appointment to see me.

Parents of children with SEND COVID-19 Impact Questionnaire:

There is an online questionnaire regarding the impact of COVID-19 on children with Special educational needs and disabilities. If parents/carers or children would like to complete this the link is:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NCB_CYP?utm_source=NewZapp&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=NCB%20Consultation%20for%20CYP%20with%20SEND%20about%20the%20impact%20of%20the%20pandemic

The closing date is the 8th March.

Speech and Language:

Good speech and language skills are essential for learning. However, 'speech language and communication difficulties are the most common primary special educational need across England' (DfE, Jul 2019).

At Our Lady's, we use 'Speech Link' to assess and develop children's speech and language skills through group and 1:1 intervention. There is also a free parent portal with lots of information and

useful videos. You can check your child's development and find tips and activities to help them progress from birth up to age 14. This website comes highly recommended, please take a look:

<https://speechandlanguage.info/parents>



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