

## Weekly Newsletter

Friday 11th June 2020.

Dear Parents, Carers, Children and Staff,

I hope you are well. The weather was not as kind to us this week. More indoor activities this week rather than the lovely sunny weather we have previously enjoyed. It is great to see children out and about, exploring nature, playing in the garden and having fun outdoors. Days like these create happy memories of childhood and help children to feel secure again in the world around them.

We are beginning to see the easing of some lockdown restrictions. Although we proceed slowly and with caution, it does bring further optimism. Next week begins our phased return for our first 'pod' returning to school. We will be sure to allow them to fully settle, engage with our recovery curriculum and learn how to operate within the 'new normal' of school life before adding a next pod if it is safe to do so. Staff are very much looking forward to seeing children face to face again. Our Trust and school have made many adaptations with the health and safety of all as paramount.



Floor markings support remembering to socially distance along with a one way system around the school building.



An intercom system has been placed in the arrival pod so visitors do not need to come into the building. New screens add protection for the reception area staff.



Classrooms are set up for social distancing with clear surfaces to allow for cleaning throughout the day.

Throughout this week staff have been sharing social stories with children to prepare our whole school community for a safe return to school well in advance. Mr Spalding, our primary phase leader, has led social story provision, creating clear expectations through an extensive bank of visually supported stories for:

#### **Core concepts**

- Understanding my Zones
- Hidden rules and expected behaviour
- There is always a schedule

#### **Transitions and expected behaviours**

- My new schedule
- Washing my hands
- Learning in my pod
- Agreeing on a place to be
- Social distancing is a new rule
- When I'm safer at home
- Arriving and leaving

As part of provision to prepare children, I would like to share another story this week from Mrs Pemberry, our reading champion in primary phase. Here is the link to a wonderful story 'The Ocean that Changed' <https://youtu.be/ESinzhuU28U?t=1> which Mrs Pemberry wrote and created herself to support children to understand about the concept of 'pods' and change for our new normal.

We are excited to receive the first phase of children back into school next week and will keep parents well informed throughout this process.

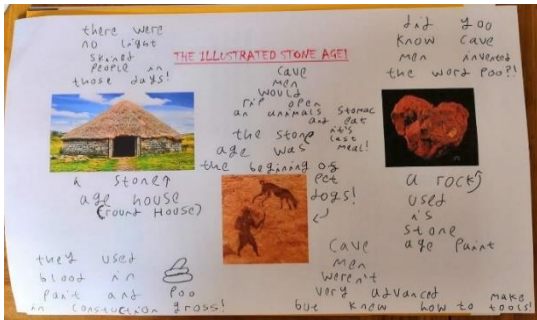
### **Some of the great learning happening at home this week ...**

Hayden in Busy bees has been creative, making a great collage with all sorts of different materials. He also commented 'here comes hair!' as he added it to his work.



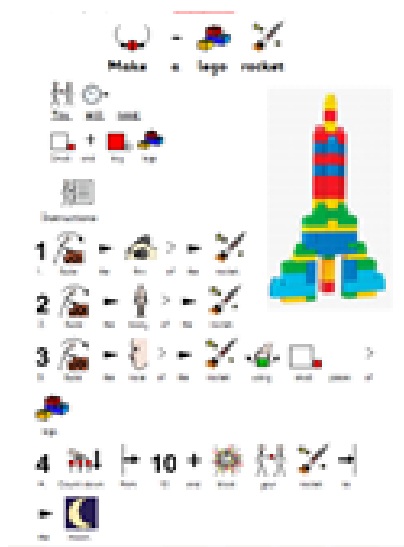
This is Ms Walker's photo of the week !

Mathew is extremely proud and looking most satisfied with the butterfly cakes he has baked. They do look very tempting!



Jimmy and his brother built Stonehenge with LEGO and made a great settlement using playdough as well as writing some facts about the stone age.

Mrs Travers read the story of 'Whatever Next' over Teams video to Ameen and little sister. Bear pretends to fly to the moon in a box, going up the chimney. Afterwards Ameen followed the instructions to build this LEGO rocket, which was one of his tasks this week.







Many of us will have needed a lockdown haircut. Here is Archie looking very relaxed for his and also enjoying time in the pool with his sister.



Fraser has been writing about the Mummification process for his class topic on Pharaohs.



Edward has been concentrating hard this week – what an amazing rocket!



Armeen has also worked hard on his writing and counting this week.

## What have our staff been up to this week ?



Ms Miteva says hello to everyone. She has been looking after the plants in her garden.

Ms Walker is busy making plans for year 11 (which I'm keeping under my hat for now) with a memorable event to celebrate their time at Medeshamstede and moving onto college - more on this next week.

Have a lovely weekend, everyone.

*L. Ives*

Mrs Laura Ives  
(Head of School)