

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 3rd July 2020.

Dear Parents, Carers, Children and Staff,

I hope you have enjoyed your week.

The good news is government guidance for the full opening of special schools and other specialist settings landed yesterday. We will have revised operating procedures in place for September to welcome all children back to school safely.

Parents/carers will receive information about who your child's teacher and staff team will be early next week. Thank you for your patience as I know many of you have been waiting for this information, which in normal circumstances we prepare for much earlier. We will plan and prepare children for a safe and successful return to school to continue their education and wellbeing. Parents and carers have been amazing during lockdown and partial school closure and we sincerely thank you for working with us over this period.

In the following two weeks before the end of term, teachers will contact you to arrange an informal transition meeting over teams or phone call. This will be with you and your child (even if you have the same class teacher and team as last academic year). This meeting will give you the opportunity to ask questions and re-imagine school in September and to know that your child will be as safe as possible. Mr Spalding is producing social stories and visual information to help prepare and support each child with transition back to school. These will be with you shortly. If you have any questions or concerns about September, please do contact me.

In preparation for September and our return Mr Howick, our outdoor learning leader, has been busy this week. He is developing a fabulous outdoor sensory area for children to relax in and enjoy; growing sensory plants and creating a 'sensory walk' which will include different surfaces for children to explore different feelings and textures through their feet. This also helps to develop sensory integration. A seating area will enable us to take learning outside along with areas for sensory play. This will be a great addition to our outdoor learning provision next year. Our thanks to Mr Howick and Mr Edwards.

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

Squirrel class have been learning about the Stone Age through to the Iron Age. One of their challenges this week was to replicate Stonehenge using food!

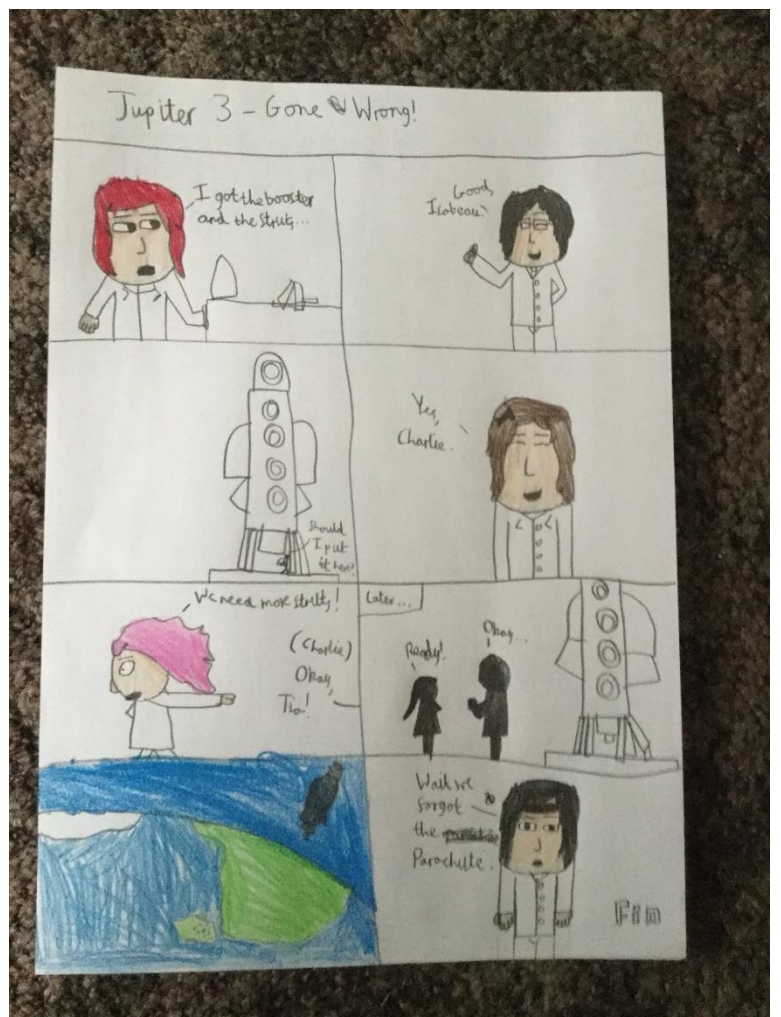


Jimmy replicated Stonehenge with Bourbon biscuits while Miss Webster went for a mixture of Bounty and Fudge bars (for good structural support of course!). Unlike the original Stonehenge, both these replicas were destroyed easily!



Hayden is doing so well with his writing. Here he is, practising writing his name.

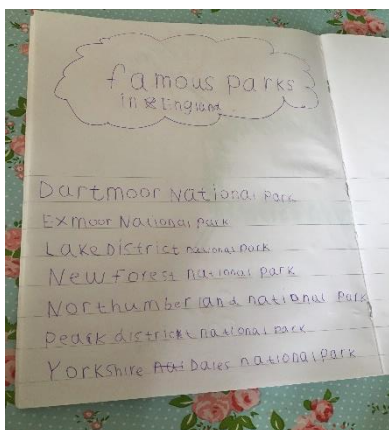
Aneka has written and illustrated a fabulous and humorous cartoon about rockets. Great expression on your characters' faces, Aneka!





We have been so impressed by Busy bees who have been learning to keep social distance during their sessions in school. Mrs Travers has been teaching them through magic tricks – which they all love and look forward to!

Hawk class have continued their topic on 'the great outdoors'. Rhys has produced a rather impressive collage of his visit to the park with his family – and some great writing!





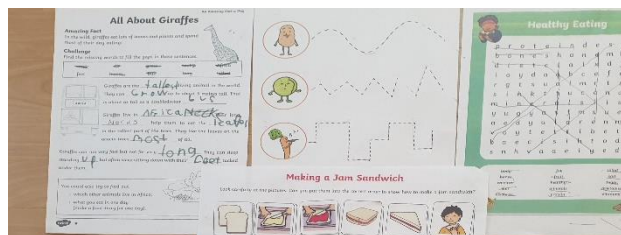
In school, 'peas in a pod' have been enjoying playing 'What's the time, Mr Wolf?' during breaktime. Renato and Kieran calculated how much different workers would earn after being furloughed! Fraser has been mask making and Callum has been 'unpacking an emotional backpack' to explore his feelings returning to school after lockdown. Well done peas!



This has to be my photo of the week! Charlie in owl class, has been learning a lot about dinosaurs! He even met some!



Callum's vegetables are continuing to grow well – both carrots and beetroot. He has also been working hard at home. Great job, Callum.



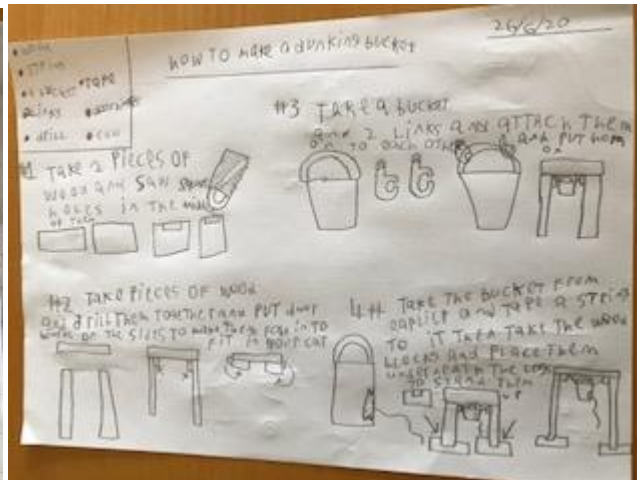


Sadly, we said farewell to our year 11 on Tuesday. They have grown into a wonderful group of young people who we have had the privilege of knowing and teaching; we are extremely proud of their achievements. Now they prepare to take their next steps towards adulthood by moving on to college. Good luck everyone – you will be magnificent!

Here is Ellie having a great time at the Y11 virtual celebration!



Alfie made delicious meatballs, spaghetti and garlic dough balls in a live cooking session with Ms Walker. He also had great fun in the swimming pool!



Henry has been busy writing instructions to make a 'dunking bucket' with diagrams to support his writing. This is fabulous, Henry – very technical!



Corben has a new cat who he has called Oreo (great name!). Since lockdown he has rescued 6 cats - keeping 2 and re-housing 4! Mr English set a class challenge for the coolest place to read. Corben wins this challenge, literally, by reading in the pool! Great photos, Corben!

What have our staff been up to this week ?



Ms Walker is growing night scented jasmine and the tomato plants are growing steadily !



Have a lovely weekend, everyone.

L. Ives

Mrs Laura Ives
(Head of School)