

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 5th 2020.

Dear Parents, Carers, Children and Colleagues,

Welcome to the second half of the summer term! I hope you enjoyed a lovely half term and it has been great to connect with our children and families again this week. In the photographs and video clips shared over this week, we are seeing some wonderful steps of progress across all sorts of areas. What really comes through are the unique interests, fascinations and talents of our children and how they are motivated by these to learn, find out more and explore.

At the beginning of lockdown I recall writing about the importance of play; allowing children's own interests to develop their lines of enquiry for learning. I think we are now feeling comfortable with children beginning to lead their learning more, as this is how they learn best – through a balance of child-led initiatives as well as adult directed tasks. There are some great examples of children applying and really honing their skills, especially important in preparation for adulthood.

Myself and Mrs Callis have a photo and video of the week - which has to be Nicholas helping with the laundry and folding his clothes! He is really problem solving and immersed in performing this task to the very best of his ability – and mum must be very pleased to have such a great helper too! Although these may seem small steps to some, there is a bigger picture of learning here – perseverance, teamwork and collaboration through this everyday task in preparation for adulthood and growing independence. Similarly Roberto, one of our younger children, greatly motivated by hearing the ice-cream van, verbally requested to his parents 'Come on...ice-cream' - all new words in his spoken vocabulary. Mrs Travers was most excited to share this news!

Most classes began their new imaginative learning project for this half term, as part of our themed Cornerstones curriculum. I'm really looking forward to seeing how these learning projects unfold and develop through the creative activities children engage in, centred around these themes.

Our year 11 children are making preparations for their next steps too, and moving on to college. At this time of year we would normally be thinking of organising and getting ready for the Y 11 prom event. We will still have a celebration once we are able to gather again. In the meantime, Y11s, if you do have any fantastic ideas for a memorable celebration this year, please let us know as we have plenty of time for a project to arrange a wonderful celebration.

In the same way, we began a sports day school tradition for Medeshamstede last summer. Any ideas of how we could deliver this virtually – perhaps through some skipping challenges, timed running races in the garden or the number of bounces of a ball in a row type of activities? The school council would love to take your ideas – we are in the business of problem solving and not letting barriers get in our way here at Medeshamstede!

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



Nicholas, busy helping to fold the laundry at home.

Ms Thulbourn's Class



Kieran found baby birds in his garden and has been helping to protect them.

Alfie ate apples this week which is a new food for him - fantastic Alfie! What new food will you try next?

Ellison has made spaghetti bolognaise from scratch with his Mum – delicious !



Here is Ellie sitting in her new family car!



Rubi's poster on her Mii's is absolutely brilliant!



Georgie is becoming a keen cook- he has been baking flapjacks in his live cooking session with Ms Walker.

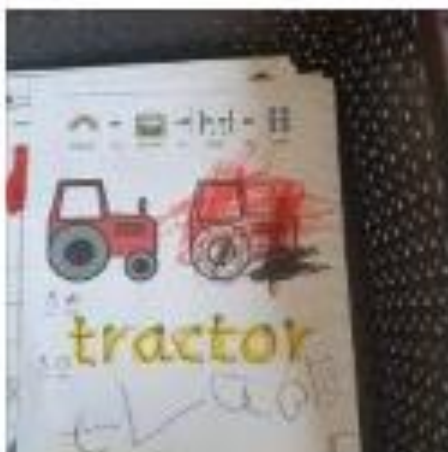


Josh helped make a large chocolate cake and some delicious chocolates using melted chocolate in moulds.

He also made colourful cookies by himself following the recipe and instructions.



In rabbits class this week, activities were themed with the story of 'Oliver's Vegetables'. Callum has been very interested in growing his own amazing vegetables - just like in the story.



Ameen read and followed symbol instructions to draw a picture of a girl. He also coloured the picture of the tractor to match the model and copied the word 'tractor'. – fabulous work, Ameen!

What have our staff been up to this week ?

Mrs Pembery has been developing her story telling talents so that we can still access the primary library virtually. She has been busy recording the story of 'Call me Gorgeous!' which you can access and listen to on the link below – see if you can guess the animals...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e3L-Tkz4mdY&feature=share>

Have a lovely weekend, everyone.

L. Ives

Mrs Laura Ives
Head of School