

Weekly Newsletter



29th January 2021

And so it ensues – March 8th reopening if possible. I do hope this is the case.

It has been an absolute joy to dip in and out of various morning wellbeing chats and live lessons this week. It makes me immensely proud seeing our pupils' heads pop up on the screen, looking studious and professional by their workstations (great job on these by the way – seen some excellent little setups!) not to mention the growing independence they're showing and of course, the computing skills they are developing. It is also very comforting knowing that – although they may not be able to see each other in person – our pupils can still see their friends remotely.

Equally as credible, are the pupils in school, who are committing themselves with the same level of dedication to their studies and showing excellent behaviour in and around school.

There has been some well-deserved scooter time this week; children in Picasso are enjoying their time with the sports coach who is coming in on a Friday; the children were utterly mesmerized by the large sheets of ice we found; equally as excited watching them smash on the playground, and flavour of the month in Dali: Pacman! Using the marked lines on the basketball court as a track, the object is to get away from Pacman at no more than a 'fast walk' – if he eats you, you're out! Even more fun, is differentiating the game by adding an additional Pacman so the pair have to work strategically to corner and chomp on our contestants. Further reducing the size of the 'arena' so there's less places to hide makes for even better viewing!

[Message from Mrs Barber & Mrs Nicholls \(Dali\)](#)

We began the week by looking at instructions. We discussed where we had seen and used instructions before (making Lego models, playing a game, making flapjacks). We looked at the features that are included in written instructions and then wrote our own, explaining how to plant seeds. In our text, 'House Held Up By Trees' the seeds from the neighbouring trees blow onto the lawn. We discovered that this is one method of seed dispersal. This led us to investigate how else seeds can be dispersed. In Science, we researched the answer to the question 'What do plants need to grow well?' We researched the answer to these questions and then presented what we had learnt in a variety of ways. At the start of 'House Held Up By Trees', we learnt that the trees were cleared so that the house could be built. In History, we looked at some old maps to see that there used to be an orchard where our school now stands! We also took part in the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch on Friday, spotting as many birds as we could around our school grounds or home gardens.

Message from Mrs Nicholls & Mrs Hobley (Picasso)

In Picasso this week, we have begun our work based on 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers. In English we have acted out the story and sequenced pictures showing the main events. We then used this to draw our own story maps and write about the story. Lots of investigative work in Science this week, finding out which objects would float, as well as testing materials to see which were waterproof. This is in preparation for our work next week when we will be making a boat for the boy and the penguin from the story.

In Maths we have been learning about time, finding out the different ways time can be measured.

In PSHE we thought about feelings and emotions and wrote down lots of words to describe these feelings. This then helped us to describe how the character's in the story were feeling.

In Geography we found out more about Antarctica, the world's wildest and coldest continent. We produced posters, pictures and presentations to share some of the amazing things we learnt.

Message from Mrs Lawrence

In Banksy Class, this week, we have completed a huge variety of writing! We started by using adverbs in different places in a sentence to describe a fight scene between Kong and a giant snake, then we used emotive words to write an escape scene. Next, we used our knowledge of modal verbs to write a letter of advice, then we recalled how to write persuasively, from last week, to produce eye-catching posters, advertising Kong's new show in New York City. Seeing Kong captured and chained up, prompted a discussion about using animals in live shows and whether this was a cruel practice or not. As a result, we wrote argument texts to discuss our points for and against. In maths, we've been subtracting and multiplying decimals. Year 4's have had a recap on finding fractions of quantities, whereas, the year 5's and 6's have learnt how to multiply fractions. We completed our week by looking at different units of measure and how we convert between them. In the afternoons, we played Anthony Browne's shape game and produced our own imaginative pieces of art work and we have also just started to learn some simple patterns on the Djembe drums. What a busy week!

Thank you to Book Club

A heartfelt thank you to Book Club who – thinking of us – made some extremely considered purchases for the teachers to use during their remote Story Time sessions. We have Dr Raj and mindfulness books; some beautiful poetry and Captain Tom Moore's story amongst others to get our teeth into. We love them – thank you, Book Club.

The Big Garden Bird Watch

Don't forget to take part in the Big Garden Bird Watch this weekend. Logon to www.rspb.org.uk for all the information you need to take part.



Bluespark Grant

A bit of a blow for us last night. My bid for the outdoor wooden classroom was unsuccessful. Chin up, though Mr Abbs and back to the drawing board! I won't rest until our grounds are transformed into the very best provision we can offer to develop our pupils' physical and mental health. So, if anyone knows how I can get a free outdoor wooden classroom complete with firepit; outdoor music ensemble; sensory equipment and outdoor gym, please just let me know!

Tesco Grant

One piece of positive news, though – we were successful in our bid to Tesco for £1000. This money has been awarded for the purchasing of additional materials for building more outdoor storage, as well as purchasing additional school scooters and helmets in our vision to ensure that every child in our school may have access to this provision.

Thank you!

A huge Thank you to Nyah and Lleyton's Grandma for the delicious cup cakes for the children and Victoria sponge cake for the staff.



If you haven't already seen it, please check out (under Covid19: Assemblies) a recent video on a sunny winter's day of some of our children in Dali scootering around the playground. I had to call Mrs Wardell down to come and capture the moment on film as there was something quite therapeutic and graceful about the sequence they were riding. Super safe, too.



Watch out for the Virtual Learning Offer letter coming your way soon and please make sure you call us for all the logins you need! If there is anything we can do to better support you parents at home, please just ask.

Please see Sid The Cygnet on his website page

<https://www.earith.cambs.sch.uk/index.php/sid-the-cygnet>

And our weekly assembly

<https://earith.cambs.sch.uk/index.php/coronavirus/assemblies>

