

Friday 1st May 2020

# School Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families are keeping well. You are all doing an absolutely amazing job at home supporting your children to stay safe and to keep up with their learning! I take this opportunity to extend my warm admiration for all of the innovative ways in which teachers, support staff and children continue to engage with Google Classroom. The commitment and resilience shown by all residents of Ryde and by everyone here at Greenmount in adapting so strongly to these unprecedented times is, as always, outstanding.

Many of our parents are key workers, so as a school, we are immensely proud of all they do in caring for communities on the Isle of Wight, especially at present. As part of the key working profession, school staff are also supporting children who are still attending school by accessing our essential on-site provision. I know that you will share a sense of pride and gratitude with me for all of their efforts. Do feel free to send in via Google Classroom any pictures of you and your children clapping for the keyworkers! Staff have been working incredibly hard creating many tasks on Google Classroom - this has been a pleasure to see. Please do not worry if you have not yet accessed Google Classroom, our office team and class teachers are happy to give you a call to see how you all are and to offer any support you may require. Please do not hesitate in contacting the school - we are open every day Monday - Friday with the office closing at 3pm.

Courtesy calls are being made weekly, please do get in touch if your contact details have changed during this time or if you have a missed call from the school number or a withheld number, it could be your class teacher trying to say hello.

Whilst it is hugely disappointing not to see each other daily, I offer you our commitment in continuing to support you and your families to our fullest capacity. At the end of this newsletter, I provide two additional resources for your interest - a daily activity review sheet for children and seven useful techniques to support reading at home. Please do contact your child's class teacher if you require any additional advice or help with Google resources, or with any of the activities that have been uploaded.

Building work continues at school as part of the continuation of larger-scale construction projects. I include some photos below for your update.



New windows and doors in Year R and refurbishment works to Year 1 classrooms.

My warmest thanks and pride go to you all in supporting us this academic term and for all that you and your children do to strengthen and celebrate Greenmount. Despite this time of transition, we continue to move forward by keeping one another at the heart of all that we do within the spirit of our motto - 'Together we nurture the future.'

Stay safe.

Miss Cox

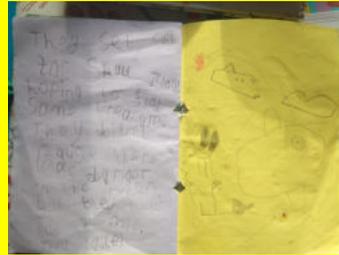
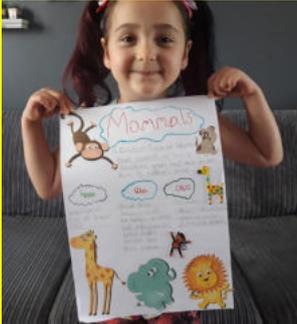
## Reception

Reception have been exploring nature!



## Year 1

We have started learning about plants! Lots of children have managed to plant beans, seeds, flowers etc! They have been busy measuring using Lego, weighing and making cakes, and this week starting to find 3D shapes around the home.



## Year 2

Lizzie-Beth Brewer - Design for an explorer's outfit which she worked really hard oo.

Reuben Flux - Face the foliage picture

Eloise Eggby - created a very homely habitat for her toy tiger

Alfie Brice did a fantastic version of Henri Rosseau's 'Tiger in a Tropical Storm'



**Together, we nurture the future.**

### Year 3

We've had another fantastic couple of weeks learning from home while schools are closed, the year 3 team couldn't be more impressed with the work we're seeing from the children in these rather unusual times.

In maths we have been brushing up on our place value, addition and subtraction. These building blocks of all our future maths learning are very important to understand and will work in with our future work on money. The children are still practicing their times tables regularly and we can't wait to see how much better they are when we return to school!

In English we have started our new virtual class reader 'Escape from Pompeii' by Christina Balet. In these first few lessons the children have been familiarising themselves with text, making predications on what will happen in the book and even writing their own version of what could happen next. These creative pieces of writing have been brilliant and the children have really used their previous learning to write some fantastic stories.

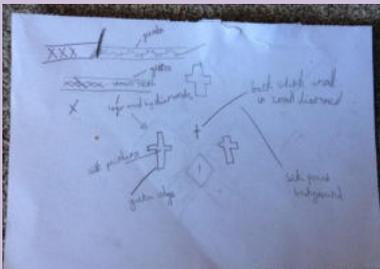
In Science we have started exploring our new topic of 'Light'. We have been looking at what light is and where light comes from. In our most recent lesson, we took an in depth look at natural and man-made sources of light, with a focus on our main source of light – the Sun! There are some very exciting lessons coming up for our light topic and it has been really sparking the scientific curiosity of the children.

Since the school closure we have started our brand-new topic – The Romans. This is a fascinating topic that looks at one of the most powerful empires in human history! So far we have looked at the origins of Rome, and tried to sort the facts from the fiction, where the Roman Empire started and why it wanted to expand, and most recently look at where the Roman Empire conquered and what it was like for those people that were invaded.

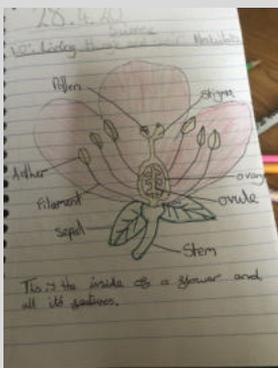
As well as the virtual learning, we have seen some of the fantastic things that the children in year 3 have been up to at home. This has included cooking delicious meals for the family, helping out in the garden or allotment, making some incredible things including some spectacular art. The year 3 team are looking forward to seeing what the children do next.

### Year 4

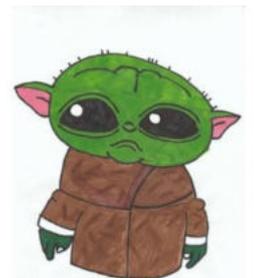
On Chagall's Google Classroom we have looked at patterns. Their task was to design a pattern to include a cross.



### Year 5



Freddie Holme, 10, Year 5



I enjoyed learning how to draw a Baby Yoda, and creating a comic story with him too! Here is my baby yoda

**Together, we nurture the future.**

## Year 6

Whiteread have been busy learning and exploring in many different ways recently...We have created our own world's and have designed languages, maps, flags and so much more! As well as this we have been busy with science experiments and baking whilst scaling our recipes. Check out Florence's cookies in the picture! Many of us have been trying to create towers using differing media as well as sharing riddles across the class whilst also researching and creating information about someone who inspires us. Please see our pictures! Whiteread Class :)

P.S Can you solve this riddle from Theo? I have cities, but no houses. I have mountains, but no trees. I have water, but no fish. What am I? (riddle)



**Together, we nurture the future.**

## 7 Top Tips to Support Reading at Home

Shared reading is a great way to develop children's language and communication and to boost their reading skills. Regular reading routines can offer lots of opportunities for learning during school closures.

- 1 Concentrate on reading quality (it isn't all about reading lots!)



Don't worry too much about the 'what' and 'how' of reading each day. Books are great—but leaflets, comics, recipes and instructions on a webpage can all be great too. Following a recipe to make some cupcakes is valuable reading. Be on the lookout for reading, wherever it is!

- 2 Ask your child lots of questions



All reading matters. Shared reading is about 'reading with', not just 'reading to' (even for older children). So, ask lots of 'Wh' questions, such as Who? What? When? Where? Why? Try them when talking about books: for example, 'what do you think Harry is feeling?'

- 3 Ask your child to make predictions about what they have read



If it is a book, look at the front cover—or the last chapter—and talk about what might happen next. Look for clues in the book and be a reading detective! For example, 'can you see the bear on the front cover? Where do you think he will go?'

- 4 Ask your child to summarise what they have read



When you've finished reading, talk about what happened. Acting out the things that happened in the story or describing the big idea of a chapter is really fun and maximises learning. For example, 'can you remember all the things that happened on the bear hunt?'

- 5 Ask your child to write about what they have read



Write, or draw pictures, from anything you've read! Big writing and pictures are even more fun. For example, use an old roll of wallpaper to make a treasure map with clues from the stories you've read together.

- 6 Read and discuss reading with friends or family



Make books a part of the family. Encourage your child to share them with a relative or friend, over a video call. Laugh about them when you are making meals together. For example, 'I hope the tiger doesn't come to tea today!'

- 7 Maintain the motivation to read



Talk about the joy of reading whenever you can. Your child is on an amazing journey to becoming a reader. Put them in the driving seat and have fun on the way! For example, 'choose your favourite story for bedtime tonight.'

# Supporting home learning routines

## Planning the day

Consistent routines are important for behaviour and wellbeing in school and our routines at home have changed significantly. Routines support behaviour and you will be finding a new rhythm with your family. You could share this checklist with your child. Talk to them to help them plan their new routines.

The importance of simple approaches as part of a regular routine is key recommendation 4 of the EEF's guidance report [Improving Behaviour in Schools](#).

✂ Rectangular Snip

	M	T	W	T	F
 I woke up at a good time.					
 I did some exercise.					
 I had regular meals and drank water.					
 I enjoyed some reading in a quiet space.					
 I practised a maths skill.					
 I completed some school work at my work space. I chunked it so I had some breaks too.					
 I talked to my family about my day and how I am feeling. I asked them about their day.					
 I helped with a household job and talked to my family while I did it.					
 I contacted my friends.					
 I spent some time on my creative hobby.					
 My parent/carer told me what I did well.					
 My goal:					
 My goal:					

