

Newsletter

8th January 2021



Dear Parents,

Well it certainly hasn't been the start to the New Year we were all planning for and has undoubtedly been incredibly challenging for everyone. I would like to thank you all for your patience and support this week. I think it's a remarkable feat that on only day three of this new way of working we have managed to get Zoom sessions up and running with over 90% of children taking part. It has been a steep learning curve for lots of us – Mrs Pickles first ever Zoom experience on Wednesday! – and there have, of course been some teething problems, but each day we will get better.

I know that some families haven't yet been able to access the online learning. If this is due to not having devices or to internet issues, please let the school office know as it may well be that we are able to help.

We now have access the Free School Meals vouchers and these will be sent out today to all families in receipt of Free School Meals. If at any point over the coming weeks you are struggling for food, I know that it can be difficult to ask for help, but please do, because it may well be that we can offer some support.

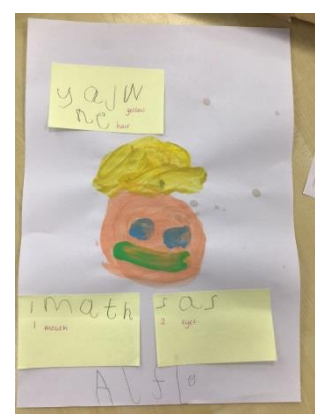
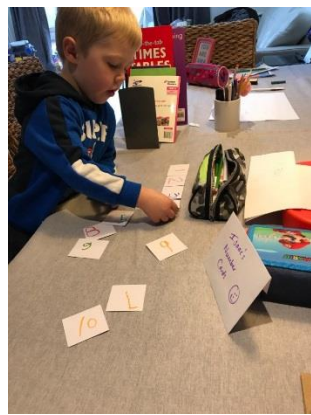
Finally, I would like to congratulate the children on their remarkable resilience and ability to adapt to new situations and challenges. Again, if your child is struggling at any point, either with their work or emotionally, please let their teacher know as we can always offer a friendly voice and a helpful word at the end of a telephone.

Class News

Penguins and Puffins

Well done everyone for our first week after Christmas at school and at home. It might be a bit different at the moment but everyone is working together as a team to make things seem a little bit like normal. We started our new topic this week 'I wonder'. We began by reading the story in class and on zoom and then the children went off to create a self-portrait of themselves. We then labelled the portrait to describe ourselves. In Maths the children have written, ordered and matched amounts to the numbers 1-10. Our topic is going to send us into space so the children have also been looking at the night sky, creating rockets and making space pictures.

We have really enjoyed our first week back and seeing you virtually or in school, looking forward to seeing you all next week and finding out more about our new topic.



Owls, Woodpeckers and Robins

All the children in KS1, whether they are learning from home or school, have adapted so quickly to all the new changes and we are so proud of everyone. This week, Robins, Woodpeckers and Owls have been looking at the story of 'The Lighthouse Keepers Lunch'. The children started by writing a review of story and many have drawn or painted amazing scenic pictures of the lighthouse. We created own packed lunch and write some interesting, descriptive sentences to describe the delicious food. It has been lovely to hear all about their Christmas holidays and amazing presents.

Sandpipers, Swans and Kingfishers

Well done Waterbirds on a fantastic first week of home learning. We have been so impressed by all of your hard work and dedication. It has been lovely to see all of your smiling faces on the zoom calls. This week, we have focused on fractions for maths. You have looked at what a fraction looks like, identified the numerator and denominator and how to make the whole. In Literacy, you have started to learn about the Stone Age by completing two reading comprehensions and by conducting your own research about a Stone Age animal. We can't wait to see some of your fact files. You have also been fantastic scientists by learning about sound. You took part in a sound walk, learnt how sound travels and have labelled parts of the ear. Well done to Sandpipers for winning the Times Table Rock Stars tournament this week. This tournament will take place every week, Monday-Wednesday, as a chance for all three Waterbird classes to compete against each other. May the best class win! Thank you for all of your support during this time and again, well done Waterbirds for having a positive attitude and working hard. We can't wait to see you all next week.

Eagles, Hawks and Kestrels

A big well done to all year 5 and 6 for working so hard this week on their remote learning. We have been busy recapping on our knowledge of word classes, such as prepositions, adverbs and pronouns, in our grammar lessons. In maths, we have started some work on equivalent fractions and converted mixed numbers to improper fractions. Next week, we will move on from fractions and come back to it when we have you back in our classrooms. In Literacy, we have been working on our comprehension skills, reading a range of texts. Next week we will be starting our remote learning topic on 'Inventors and their inventions', which the literacy and topic sessions will be based on. Well done to all of you who have been on zoom this week- you have adapted extremely well to this. You have listened well to our morning teaching sessions and it has been great playing games and seeing all your pets on our afternoon sessions. Excellent work to both children in school and to all of you at home.

Praise Winners

| Class | Name | Animal | Reason |
|---------------------------------|----------|---|---|
| Penguins | Ethan |  | For showing a grown-up attitude to his home-learning |
| Puffins | Charlie |  | For setting himself lots of challenges linked to our new topic |
| Robins | Roman |  | For working really hard, particularly on his reading |
| Owls | Mya |  | For doing brilliantly with her reading |
| Woodpeckers | Harrison |  | For writing super sentences |
| Kingfishers Teacher's choice | Evie |  | For making an incredible model of a stone-age house complete with removable roof |
| Swans Teacher's choice | Darcie |  | For showing commitment and enthusiasm for her online learning |
| Sandpipers Teacher's choice | Jemima |  | For a beautiful piece of writing about her Christmas and for sharing this with her class |
| Kestrels Teacher's choice | Oliver |  | For superb progress in his work on fractions |
| Hawks Teacher's choice | Eva |  | For engaging in conversations and asking relevant questions |
| Eagles Teacher's choice | Joseph |  | For listening carefully and using the chat box well to answer questions on our daily learning |