

22nd January 2021

Dear Parents

I'm going to start with a challenge this week – this one comes from Mrs Bartholomew-Millar who is our Assistant Head of Faculty for STEM and leads Maths in the Senior School:

We have been really impressed with the quality and standard of work being submitted by many of the pupils to the Maths team over the last few weeks. We want to add an extra level of challenge and competition. We are launching a weekly competition on parallel.org.uk for Years 7-9. At 3pm every Thursday, students who have registered will be sent an email with the challenge to complete. The results of this are sent to me. This is a great way to engage students in Maths outside of the classroom. Please log on to parallel.org.uk and use the school code 54s437 to register, we will keep you updated with the leader board. You can now follow the STEM team on twitter @HallPolam where we will keep you posted on all things Polam STEM.

Mrs Bartholomew-Millar

Miss Blair has already been setting challenges – in her case PE ones! She has sent me this report for you all:

I would like to thank everyone that has taken part in my PE lesson over the last two weeks. It has been great to see so many of you working on your coordination skills and so many of you impressing me with your scores! I'm not even sure I could beat some of them! Keep up the hard work and look out for a new lesson and skill focus next week.



What fantastic pictures! I know that all of the adult members of our school community are finding the time in front of a screen challenging at the moment so it is great to see some of the things that are being done physically and not online!

Mrs Dawson has also been making pupils work creatively and practically offline: *Year 5 and 6 have been busy being very creative. I asked them to produce an Indian elephant using an old milk carton. Can't believe how inventive they have been. I am so enjoying looking at all the examples of their work that I am receiving. Really lifts the spirits on cold, damp days!*



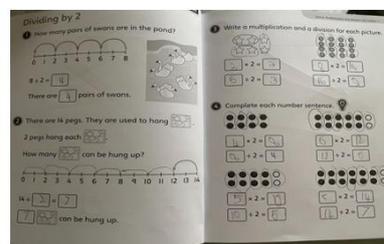
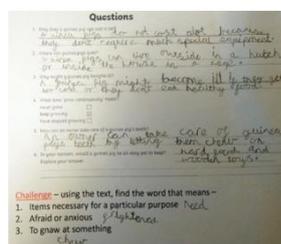
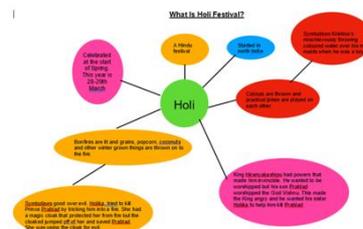
Don't they look amazing? Well done to all of Year 5 and 6 – I wish I had space for all the pictures that I have been sent.

We have made a few changes to Home Learning this week, as you will know from my letters, to streamline the way that we are doing things and ensure that submission of work is more straightforward for teachers and pupils. In the first couple of weeks of term our focus was very much on the medium – moving what we normally do to remote learning – but we are now looking at what evidence we have that pupils are learning, how we assess what they are producing and feedback to them to help them move their learning forward. This is by no means a straightforward thing to do when we are working remotely, but using Teams and Tapestry as our assessment tools is proving to be effective. Year 2 parents have had to remember how to use Tapestry – something they haven't done since their children were in Reception – but it seems to be going well! Here is Mrs Mawson's report:

I would like to report that Year 2M have been so enthusiastic and hard working this week. It's been a joy to share their work on Tapestry and see their smiling faces on the zoom meetings.

Toby used his times-tables facts to solve the multiplication and division calculations. Frank sent me his wonderful landscape picture that he had produced. Ella has used her IT skills to create a mind map about the Hindu festival of Holi and Hannah completed the comprehension exercise about guinea pigs and the challenge task with confidence. Well done Year 2M and I hope you all enjoy a relaxing weekend!

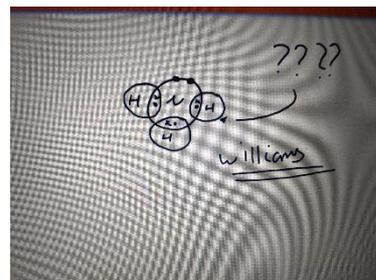
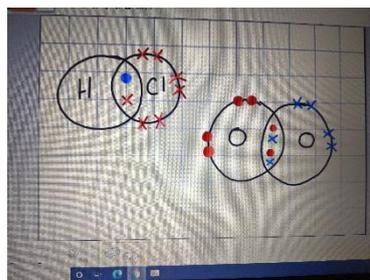
A big thank you to parents and grandparents too for your continuous support at home and for uploading the children's work to Tapestry this week!



Mrs Elsdon's class have also been submitting work on Tapestry: *This week, Year 2 have been looking at the Hindu festival of Holi in RS - the children in 2E have worked so hard with their presentation. Well done to Ebony and Mason! A huge thank you again to all the parents for their continued support at home. Mrs Elsdon.*

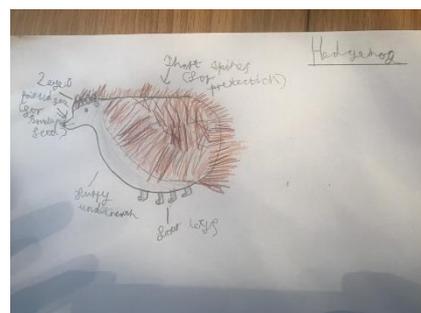
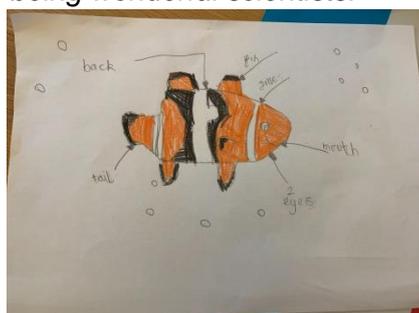


In Year 10 Chemistry there have also been some amazing drawings – this time drawn using online tools rather than pen and pencil! Having used online whiteboards with my classes I have to say that I am in awe of Izzy's neatness here! These wonderful diagrams came from Mrs Jones:



The drawing from Izzy Hannan we decided as a class was so neat and perfect drawn using Whiteboard.fi, that it was worthy of a newsletter mention! The class have worked really hard this week finishing off their understanding of ionic bonding and we turned our attention to covalent bonding and there were some fantastic simple covalent molecules drawn in the lesson which I wanted to showcase! A beautiful example of single and double covalent bonds by Izzy and an Ammonia molecule by Charley Williams with its lone pairs was also correct, using their knowledge of the periodic table and structure and bonding. Keep up the great work, Mrs Jones.

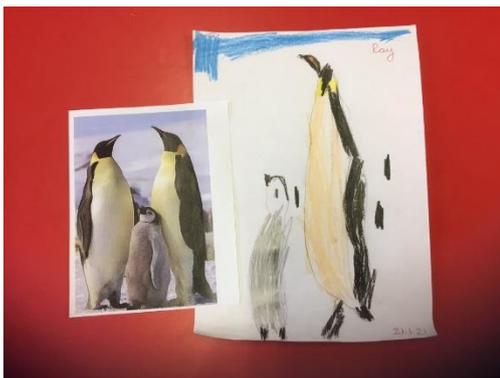
Year 1 have also been scientists this week with Mrs Brown: *This week Year 1 have continued learning about animals in Science. We have been looking at animal's body parts and Year 1 have done a fantastic job of creating diagrams of their favourite animals. I have been really impressed with how carefully the children have sketched their animals and labelled them. Children have even thought about the importance and uses of the different body parts. Well done for being wonderful scientists!*



Year 4 have been making Roman shields and armour this week – the Year 4 children in Key Worker provision have been very involved in this when I have visited their classroom. Miss Bowes sent me this lovely picture of some of them and says how much they have enjoyed learning about the Romans and creating their own helmets and shields. They have also made a robot for their art project from Mrs Dawson. She and Miss Jackson, who have been staffing the Year 4 room this week have both very much enjoyed seeing their research come to life.



This term Reception are learning all about penguins. When I visited the Reception Key Worker children earlier this week, Miss Franks showed me the drawings that they were doing and she has since sent me this report: *We looked on a map of the world and found out that a lot of penguins come from a continent called Antarctica. We found out that no one lives in Antarctica, just lots of different animals! We decided to draw all the different types of penguins and animals that share this very cold and isolated place.* I don't have room for all their wonderful art work, but here are a couple of fantastic examples!



Finally, Mr Robson sent me some congratulations for his Year 7 French students: *Can I congratulate Year 7V French class for an excellent online oral/aural session this morning - all students who attended made an excellent contribution to learning. Special mentions to Edith Thomas, Ollie Graham, Leah Calverley and Archie Morgans.*

And he also wanted to say well done to Year 11, in his role as our Careers Leader, for really sorting their destinations out in a determined and diligent way. Mr Robson tells me that we now have 86 per cent of students in Year 11 who have been given an offer for the next stage

in their education. A reminder that all Year 11 students should keep checking with their online provider for important meeting dates. Mr Robson will also be dropping into Year 11 tutorial sessions next week to check to see if anyone has any issues with their applications or would like a further appointment with the external careers advisor. And don't worry about emailing him at any time for advice or help.

A very busy newsletter this week – a reflection of how busy all our pupils have been at home and in school over the past five days. I know that I have said it before, but my thanks do really go out to all of our parents and grandparents that are supporting with Home Learning. We know what you are doing is not easy – and don't hesitate to get in touch with teachers if you need more information or are not sure about something that we have sent out.

For now, though, it is Friday and the end of another week! Let's hope that the sun shines over the weekend for us all.

Best wishes

K. Reid.

Kate Reid