

26th February 2021

Dear Parents

It feels very much in school as though this has been a week of good news. All our pupils will be able to return on Monday 8th March and all the staff I have spoken to have talked of how much they are looking forward to it! I do have to ask pupils to keep going for one more week though. We need them to keep working remotely so that they are in the best position when they return to the classroom – however fed up of Teams and Zoom we all are!

The sun has also been shining this week and spring is with us (though I always anticipate a sting in the tail!). You will remember Junior School pupils planting crocus bulbs in the Autumn Term as part of the Rotary Club's 'Purple for Polio' initiative – well those bulbs have now become flowers and the purple carpet in the grounds is glorious to see. Hopefully there will be more of us here to see it soon – but in the meantime here is a picture:

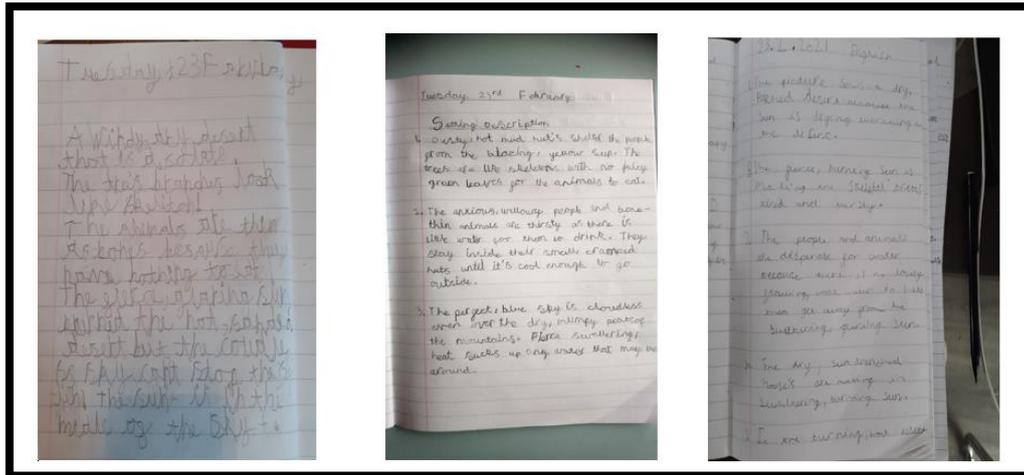


I met (virtually) with the PHPA this week and they have asked if I could remind all parents about two things. The first is donating uniform to the Thrift Shop, which will be up and running again. If you have good quality used uniform please do consider donating it so that others can use it. In particular if you have any girls' kilts we would be very grateful – they seem to be in short supply! Secondly please consider signing up for the School Lottery and/or Easyfundraising – both help us to raise money for school in these times when we can't have our usual events. Details of how to contact the PHPA are on the school website: <https://www.phs.woodard.co.uk/960/phpa>

As always, the first week back after half term has brought with it a flurry of activity. Mrs Mawson has sent me this report about the work that her class have been doing:

Year 2M have been working extremely hard this week measuring in centimetres and metres, comparing and ordering lengths and writing setting descriptions. The children have used their senses to describe the setting of our new story for this half term entitled, 'Lila and the Secret of Rain' by David Conway and Jude Daly. Using new vocabulary, expanded noun phrases and conjunctions they have produced some super setting descriptions.

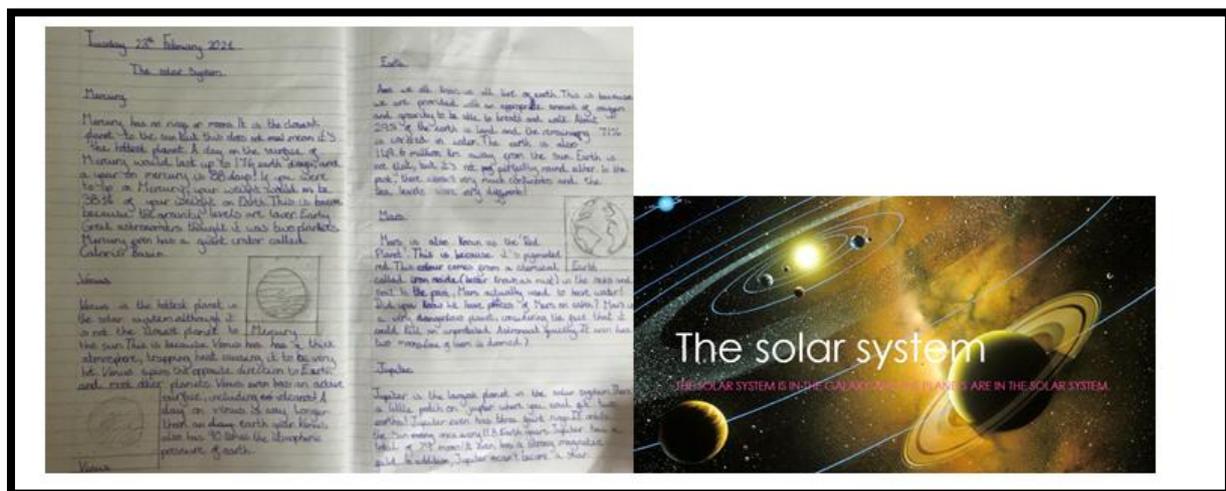
This week I have delight in sharing James, Hannah and Olivia's writing.



Well done to all Year 2M for your hard work and determination this week. I've been so impressed with your super effort. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone back in school very soon!

Wishing you all a lovely weekend. Mrs Mawson

Mrs Goodwin has sent me some pictures of the fantastic Science work that Year 5 have been doing. The children have been learning about the Solar System and have produced some great work to show their understanding. Mrs Goodwin is really impressed at the effort that the children have put into their work.



Mrs Bury and Miss Ritchie have also sent me a 'well done' for their Year 3 classes: Mrs Bury and Miss Ritchie wish to thank the children in Year 3 for returning to school after the half-term break equipped with enthusiasm for learning and great focus. It has been a pleasure to look at the work submitted and listen to ideas and contributions during the live lessons. One of the highlights has been the beautiful illustrations/paintings of the firebird. Well done, everyone.

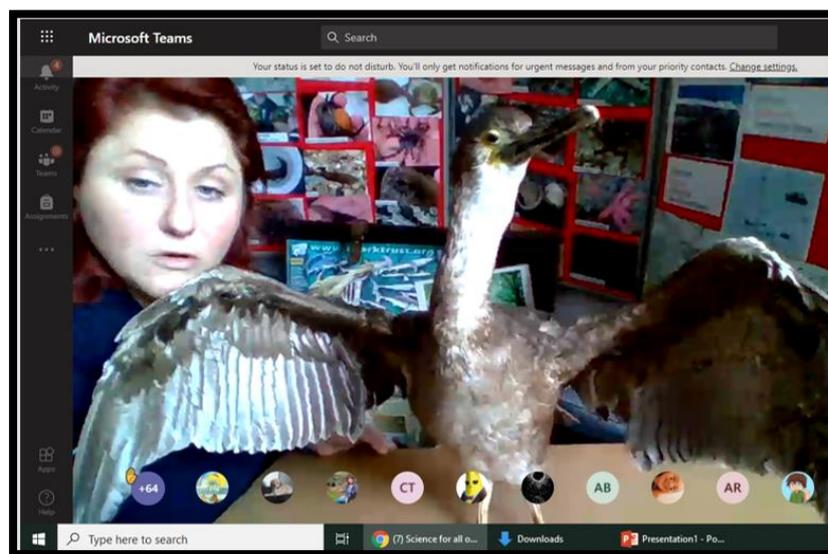
This week year 7 have had a very different introduction to their Ecology topic in Science by way of a guest speaker. Samantha Levey is the education officer from St Mary's Lighthouse in North Tyneside and while she is more used to working with schools on the beach in wellies and waterproofs, she was able to adapt to the current restrictions and gave our pupils an

exciting and inspiring online lesson about her work on the island. This report is from Mrs Straughan:

The lesson was mainly around careers and Samantha explained what her role involves as well as the career path that brought her to Tynemouth. Samantha's main passion is Marine Biology, but we were surprised to learn that as well as saving injured seals (and having a nasty scar to show for it) and educating the public about the lighthouse, she also works with the RNLi and historical groups and was involved with installing the Dippy Exhibition at the Great North Museum in Newcastle!

She left us by asking Year 7's to put their ideas forward for the refurbishment of the lighthouse as they have recently been awarded money to invest in the lighthouse and island and some of our ideas could be included!

Here is a screen shot of the lesson where Samantha is showing us some of the taxidermy birds she has in the lighthouse collection!



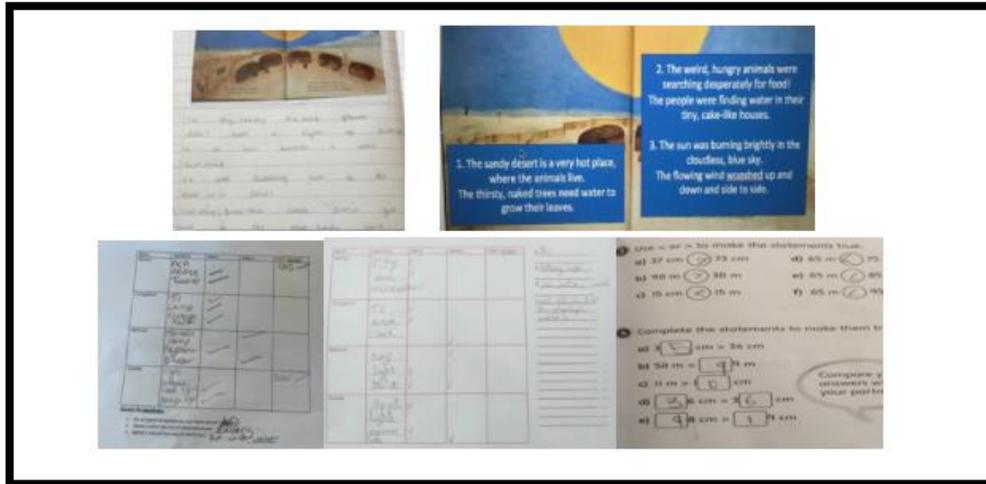
We invested in MyON during this last lockdown to ensure that pupils could read at home and had access to a quality online library. Mrs Squires has been monitoring the reading that has been taking place from Year 3 to Year 11:

I am pleased to report that since we launched MyON, a total of 192 hours and 4 minutes has been spent reading. Students from Year 3-11 have clearly enjoyed their time reading as I can report that 468 books have been completed! Well done to Year 7 who have read for a total of 75 hours and have completed 131 books so far! The leaderboard currently looks like:

Year 3	49	69	10 hr 46 min
Year 4	49	104	21 hr 31 min
Year 5	51	76	18 hr 44 min
Year 6	52	90	11 hr 28 min
Year 7	93	131	75 hr 03 min
Year 8	91	92	34 hr 15 min
Year 9	74	98	11 hr 16 min
Year 10	77	3	3 hr 58 min
Year 11	69	4	4 hr 38 min

Come on Year 10 - I want to see more reading completed next week! Mrs Squires

Mrs Elsdon tells me that her Year 2 class have been working so hard at home this week: Year 2E have produced some wonderful work this week in English, Maths and Science. I am proud of the continued hard work and effort from all the children at school and at home. Keep it up Year 2!



Finally, as has become a bit of a tradition during lockdown, here are the House Quiz standings from Mr Robson:

Here are the up to date placings for the ongoing CC quiz, which we will continue with now until March 5th. Congratulations to the following students with Concordia Crescimus

LEWIS WATERS
MOLLIE BAKER
HARRY SMITH
JACK NEILL-WEBB
MAGGIE SMITH
ANSWORTH ADU-GYAMFI

FORM GROUP POSITIONS AS FOLLOWS

YEAR 7 - 7V 118.5 POINTS (ALSO TOP OF WHOLE SCHOOL)
YEAR 8 - 8D 110 POINTS
YEAR 9 - 9W 24 POINTS
YEAR 10- 10 NBM 4 POINTS
YEAR 11 - 11S 37 POINTS

HOUSE POSITIONS AS FOLLOWS

1. TEES 219 POINTS
2. KENT 173 POINTS
3. SWALE 114 POINTS
4. SKERNE 57 POINTS

Thanks as always to Mr Robson for running the quiz!

Next week will be the final week of Home Learning as all pupils should be back in school on Monday 8th March. Please could I ask parents of Senior School pupils to check the start times for the Monday as the start to the day is staggered for different year groups so that we can complete testing for Year 7 and 8 and so that I can speak with each returning year group about the Covid rules and routines. Everyone from Year 7 upwards must have a face mask unless you have contacted school to say they are exempt. We are asking for masks that can be removed not those which sit around pupils' necks like scarves please.

If you are a Senior School parent and have not yet consented for testing via Arbor please can I urge you to do so? We want to make school as safe as it can possibly be for both staff and students – testing helps us to do this. It also helps us to keep pupils in the classroom by identifying positive cases before they have had contact with other pupils.

We have Year 11 parents' evening on Monday night – virtually. I'm very much looking forward to speaking with parents. I have written to Year 11 parents and students about the outcome of the Ofqual consultation on GCSE assessment this summer – parents of pupils in other year groups may be interested in the facts behind the headlines! If so the document which summarises the outcome and the decisions made about this summer's assessments can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2021>

I hope that everyone has a good weekend – ready for the final week of Teams/Zoom!

Best wishes



Kate Reid