

29th January 2021

Dear Parents

Every Friday morning I send a reminder email to all of our staff asking for any contributions for this newsletter that they might have forgotten to send. I get some weird and wonderful pictures every week – but I have to say that Miss Blundy wins the prize this week for the strangest set of pictures. Just imagine my face when I opened her email and this is what I saw...

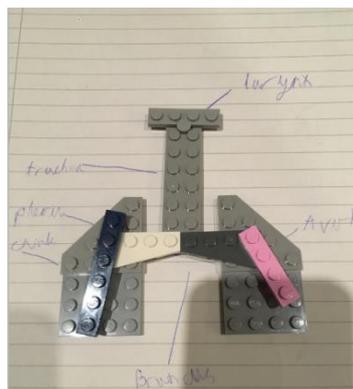


Fortunately the accompanying report did explain what had been going on and that I didn't need to call the emergency services!

In Science this week the children made "blood". We used different measurements of each ingredient to show the quantities of red blood cells(Cheerios and red food colouring), white blood cells(white marshmallows), plasma (yellow food colouring and water), platelets (oats) and nutrients(salt). Miss Blundy did a demonstration during Miss Law's live lesson and some of the Year 6 pupils have also done the experiment at home!

Just as I had recovered from the shock, Miss Blundy's blood was followed by Mrs Straughan's 'lungs' – though these seem a bit less gruesome!

As part of the Movement and Breathing topic my Year 8 Science classes were tasked with making a model of the lungs which identifies the key parts using things they could find in their homes. There were some fantastic creations including lungs made out of Lego, hair brushes, a set that can be blown up as well as some made with stationery the Key Worker students had in school. Well done Year 8!



I would also like to commend Rebecca Davison in Year 7 for raising to the Science Club Challenge that I set at the start of the term. She has investigated acids and alkali, made environmentally friendly board games as well as developing the ultimate paper airplane. Great work Rebecca!

On a serious note, it is the practical subjects such as Science, PE and Art who find that it is most difficult to replicate their normal teaching at a distance and it is lovely to see how creative our staff and students are! Mrs Dawson has also been getting the Junior School children that she teaches to 'think outside the box' as they create art work for her:

Years 3 and 4 this week have been working on pictures of Jungles inspired by the artist Henri Rousseau. They were asked to create a collage using things they could find around the house and I think they have been very inventive.

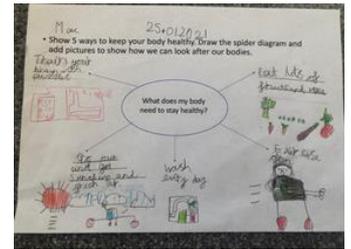
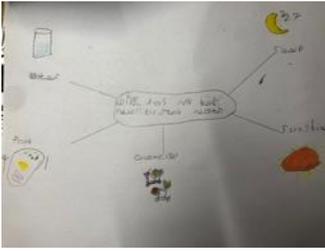


Mrs Dawson also teaches Years 1 and 2 who have been working on the theme of 'hands': *Years 1 and 2 were asked to think about how important hands are to us. We hold hands with our loved ones, we clap for the NHS, we stroke our pets and we use them to do our work. Some lovely work was submitted and I have included a few examples here:*

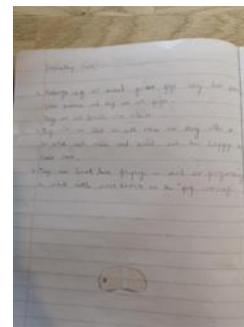
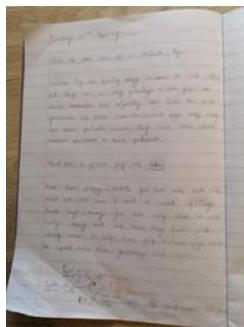


Year 2 continue to be busy at home – this report from Mrs Elsdon:

2E have continued to impress me with their positive attitude, dedication and enthusiasm towards their work this week. In PSHE, we thought about ways to keep our body and mind healthy - which is especially important in our current situation and there are some brilliant examples below from Teddy, Mac, Scarlett and Roko:-



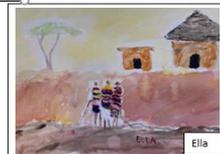
The children have also completed an Independent Write this week, focusing on How to take care of a guinea pig. I have thoroughly enjoyed reading them all, especially the Fascinating Facts! Below is a wonderful example of a Non-Chronological Report from Bronte. Thank you to all those at home supporting the children at this time. Have a wonderful weekend, Mrs Elsdon.



And Mrs Mawson has also written about the artwork that her class have been completing:

I'd like to share some of Year 2M's beautiful, Kenyan landscape pictures. They've studied the work of John Ndambo who is a Maasai painting artist. Archie, Arthur, Ella, Lola-Mae and Amelia M have experimented with felt tips, water colours, and paints to create their artwork. Their pictures certainly radiate the heat and the vibrant colours of the Kenyan landscape.

Well done to all Year 2M for your hard work this week and your super non-chronological reports about guinea pigs! Have a restful weekend, Mrs Mawson.



In the Senior School, the Maths challenges that I wrote about last week have begun! Mrs Bartholomew-Millar wants to say well done to all those students who had a go at this week's

first Parallel.org.uk challenge. Stand out results came from Jacob Kennington, Brandon Boyle-Blair, Alex Wilkins and Luke McGregor. The challenge is open to everyone and a new puzzle is set every Thursday at 3pm with results published on Monday. Please encourage your child to sign up at parallel.org.uk with the school code 54s437

Many of you will know, if you have children in the Senior School, that Mr Robson's Friday House Quiz is a very competitive event! He has been itching to get it back up and running in some form ever since term began. Not a man to let something like a national lockdown get in his way, he has found a way for us all to continue the CC Quiz from home:

Miss Vanzan is desperately worried about the Friday quiz – that because of lockdown she may lose momentum and be in danger of losing her crown to Mr. McGrath or Mr. Birtles. So from today there is going to be a lockdown CC quiz

Today I have emailed out a set of questions to all Senior students – with a deadline of return emails to Mr. Robson with answers by the end of Tuesday school. The first 5 students to get all correct answers will receive a Concordia Crescimus and all entrants will get individual, form and house housepoints for the number of correct answers they submit.

Thanks to Mrs. Ryan, the quiz may be more technically advanced than an email next week! Let the competition begin.....

Mr Robson

Please do encourage your child to take part – it is events such as the quiz which will help them to stay connected to school and help with motivation during this difficult time. We know how hard remote learning is for many children (and for many staff!) and we hope that by replicating some of our normal school activities we can help them to remain in touch with their peers and maintain some of the rhythm of school life.

Mr Robson is of course not only Quizmaster General but also our Careers Leader. He has asked me to put a careers update into today's newsletter for all parents:

Careers Information Update

During what has been almost a year of Covid now, I am pleased to report that Careers Education at Polam is progressing steadily, even if a little slower than I anticipated. By the end of this academic year, every student in Years 11, 10 and 9 will have had some meaningful encounters with employers or careers advisors and many will have been participants in national projects.

Year 7 and 8 activities have been somewhat curtailed by Covid but once they are back to school there will be a lot to catch up on - and watch this space Juniors, because careers input is coming to you in the Summer Term too!

Year 10 will do work experience this academic year, though it will be virtual not hands on, more details to follow after half term.

Year 9 – a reminder to you that by February half term I need your letters of application in please – employers are looking forward to reading them and giving you feedback. I have been

delighted by those I have read so far and, because of exams, I am giving Year 9 an extended deadline until Friday 12 February to return your forms.

Year 11 – please keep in touch with me regarding your next steps – we are now up to 95% success rate with applications and offers – a remarkable achievement considering the restrictions we have in place – but if there are any issues, do not hesitate to contact me. Please keep in touch with your destination provider's website – there are virtual activities and meetings happening all the time at all the Colleges and institutions.

It makes my role a lot easier when I have so many supportive and eager students, parents and staff.

Finally, it is National Apprenticeship Week beginning 8 February – check the Careers section of the Polam website for links to apprenticeship activities and opportunities.

Mrs Jones has sent me the following report and congratulations: Rosa Merrick has produced some amazing work in Chemistry with all five drawings of alkanes correct from the crude oil topic we have been learning about! Her chemical formulas were also spot on. Great work using the Whiteboard.fi Rosa to show me your understanding of this lesson - keep it up!

Alkane (Carbon Atoms)	Molecular Formula	Full Structural Formula
Methane (1)	C_1H_4	$\begin{array}{c} H \\ \\ H-C-H \\ \\ H \end{array}$
Ethane (2)	C_2H_6	$\begin{array}{c} H & H \\ & \\ H-C & -C-H \\ & \\ H & H \end{array}$
Propane (3)	C_3H_8	$\begin{array}{c} H & H & H \\ & & \\ H-C & -C & -C-H \\ & & \\ H & H & H \end{array}$
Butane (4)	C_4H_{10}	$\begin{array}{c} H & H & H & H \\ & & & \\ H-C & -C & -C & -C-H \\ & & & \\ H & H & H & H \end{array}$
Pentane (5)	C_5H_{12}	$\begin{array}{c} H & H & H & H & H \\ & & & & \\ H-C & -C & -C & -C & -C-H \\ & & & & \\ H & H & H & H & H \end{array}$

Well done to everyone who has had a mention in the newsletter today – but also to all those who haven't. We know how hard you are all working at home. It isn't always easy to keep working remotely but all of our Polam pupils are doing a great job!

Best wishes

K. Reid.

Kate Reid