

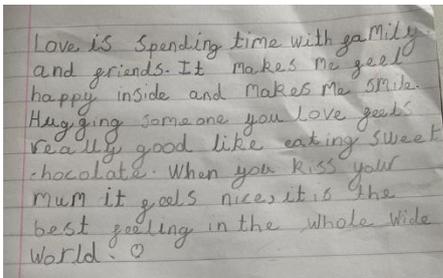
5th March 2021

Dear Parents

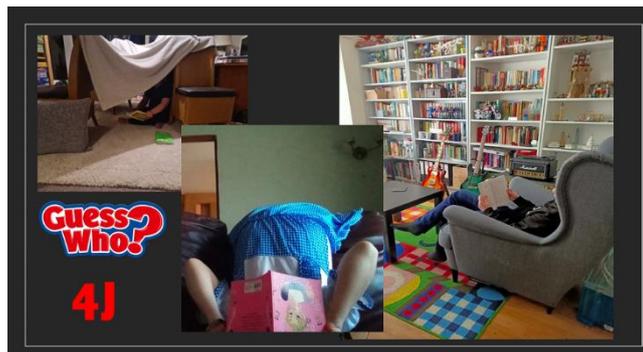
And so the final week of Home Learning draws to a close. This week's newsletter is full of praise for pupils who have coped so well and done so much. We have had some lovely emails of support and thanks for our wonderful staff this week – thank you so much for your kind words.

This week, though, contained one of our favourite days of the school year – World Book Day! At home and in school, Mrs Brown and Mrs Squires organised activities for pupils to get involved with. Here is Mrs Brown's report:

World Book Day was a wonderful celebration of all things reading! The children used The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse by Charlie Mackesy to inspire their own writing. All the children thought of wonderful, heart-warming things to write about. They are a credit to the Polam Hall community. Below is some writing by Adam Siddique and Nell Hyland.



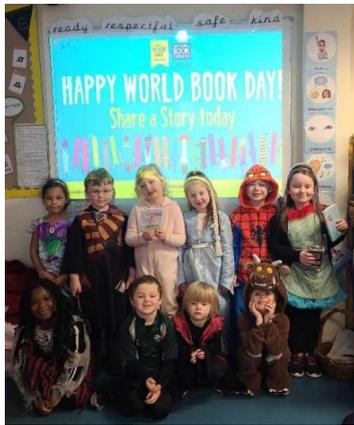
Your teachers had a wonderful time reading you some of their favourite stories over zoom. It was a joy to see so many faces on our screens listening carefully. Year 4 played a game of "Guess Who" incorporating their love of reading. I wonder if you can identify any of our mysterious readers?



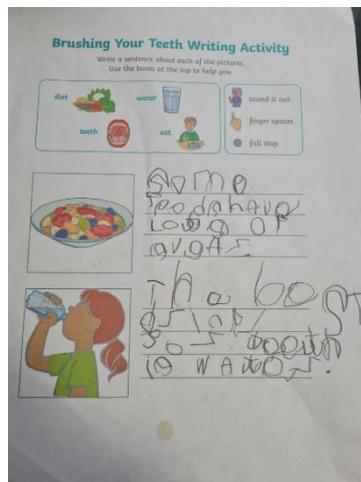
We were also treated to some wonderful costumes that displayed the children's love of their favourite characters. Well done everyone!



In school as well we had costumes galore – Gruffalos and princesses arriving at the gate yesterday morning along with quite a few Harry Potters! The Year 11s who arrived for their Covid tests looked very dull in comparison – though Millie Mitford did have her Hogwarts sweatshirt on! Miss Franks has sent me a picture of the Year 1 Key Worker children in their costumes and Miss Barras sent one of her furry friends reading with her!



Despite the fact that our minds have turned to the return to school, there has still been plenty of work going on at home this week. Mrs Crosby wants to say a big well done to Reception: *Mrs. Crosby is so proud of how all the children have worked so hard on their independent writing during this term both at home with their parents and at school with Miss. Franks. Before Christmas we were beginning to write some CVC words- and look at us now! Amazing!*



Year 6 have been working hard on their History: *This week in history Y6 made Top Trump cards about the Tudors. They have enjoyed finding out information of their own and playing with family at home. Miss Blundy and Mr Turnbull are very proud of how hard they have worked throughout lockdown.*



Mrs Goodwin has asked me to include a message to all the Juniors to say how proud she is of all of the children in Key Stage 2 for their resilience and dedication over the last 8 weeks. She wanted to say a special thank you to Year 5 who have shown how truly amazing they are.

Last week was actually National Careers Week, but Mr Robson made the decision to postpone his celebration of all things careers until we have pupils back in school: *Although it was National Careers Week this week on the calendar, students will not miss out on activities as we will be celebrating it in the final week of this term - week beginning 22nd March There will be activities for year groups 7-10 during that week. I will also have a Careers Challenge for Juniors! Year 11 should be cementing their destination choices and subjects and I will be seeing all of them individually next week.*

Those of us with Welsh blood will know that it was not only National Careers Week and World Book Day last week, but also St David's Day. Miss Courtney-Walker has been working with the Year 2 Key Worker children who learnt about St David's Day and how and why we celebrate it. The children then created art around St. David's day, including the wearing of Daffodils and the Dragon from the Welsh flag.

Next week is British Science Week. Mrs Jones has asked me to include this information about how we will be promoting all things Science next week!

British Science Week 5th-14th March is really upon us! We have got some exciting activities planned across the whole school as myself and Mrs Goodwin have been busy planning to deliver a great week of events.

For Juniors there will be lots of mini practicals for you to get involved in when you're back in school, from making your own ice cream to homemade lava lamps to name a few. Mrs Price one of our Senior Biology teachers is also going to come and deliver a lesson down in Juniors.

For Seniors there will also be some home experiments for you to try, as we know that British Science Week falls when school reopens. We are encouraging lots of Junior and Senior students to perform these experiments at home if possible, send in some pictures to myself or Mrs Goodwin and we will be handing out Easter egg prizes later in the term for students who get involved!

Mrs Straughan has also got some practicals up her sleeve for Science Club on a Wednesday CC time which involves using some Faraday Curiosity Practical Boxes we were sent a couple of months ago.

Lastly we also want all students in Juniors and Years 7-9 in Seniors to get involved in the Design a Lab Coat Competition we have entered as a school. Bayer pharmaceuticals are offering a chance for us to win a class set of lab coats for the school and a life size cardboard cut out of the winning design as well as other prizes if we win! All you have to do is design a lab coat (and be as creative and imaginative as you can!) to show what science means to you. This could be illustrations of your favourite science topics, science that affects life on our planet or anything else that makes you think of science and the bigger picture. You can use the template attached or drawn your own and either take a picture and email myself or Mrs Goodwin a copy or hand in a physical copy. We will pick the best five entries each from Infants, Juniors and Seniors and send them off to Bayer. The deadline is Friday 23rd April.

Lots to look forward to both in school and outside of school so please get involved in British Science Week at Polam. We will be posting more on our Twitter page Polam Hall STEM.

I hope that lots of you will get involved!

Some individual congratulations now – Mr Fenwick has asked me to congratulate Paige Millar in Year 6 - *Paige Miller from 6B Juno receives instrumental lessons from our drum kit teacher in school. Not to be deterred by lockdown, Paige has worked incredibly hard in completing her Grade 1 Drumming Examination and passed with distinction. Well done, Paige!*

Mrs Bury has asked me to say a big well done to Lucas Arnott in Year 3 - *Lucas Arnott in 3B Diana will shortly be awarded the Polam Hall School Community badge for the help that he has given to the disadvantaged and homeless during the lockdown. Lucas has been very busy donating toys and collecting toiletries, coats and blankets from family and friends to give to the homeless. In addition, and in memory of his great grandparents, Lucas will be fundraising for Alzheimer and Dementia charities on 13 March by taking part in a five mile memory walk. If anyone would like to sponsor Lucas, please use the link below.*

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/mw579331>

And Mrs Mawson and Mrs Elsdon want to say a big well done to the whole of Year 2!

We would like to say a huge thank you to all the children in Year 2 for their resilience and enthusiasm over the past few weeks of Lockdown - you have amazed us every week with your amazing attitude and wonderful work. We would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to the parents/grandparents/carers at home and the staff in school, who have supported and encouraged the children every step of the way.

It was a joy to see the children dressed up as their favourite literary characters on World Book Day and read their fantastic work inspired by our whole school story.

Monday is going to be an exciting day for us all, to be back together learning in the classroom and to be able to play with friends at school once again. We are truly looking forward to seeing you all! Have a lovely weekend - see you soon! Mrs Elsdon and Mrs Mawson.

Today we had the final instalment of the lockdown House Quiz for Seniors – we won't have the final results until next week. But here are the latest standings from Mr Robson:

CC QUIZ 3 STANDINGS - OVERALL POSITIONS AFTER 3 QUIZZES

YEAR 7 -- 7V WITH 157.5 POINTS - BEST IN SCHOOL

YEAR 8 -- 8D WITH 141 POINTS

YEAR 9 -- 9C WITH 38 POINTS

YEAR 10 - 10 NBM WITH 4 POINTS

YEAR 11 - 11S WITH 37 POINTS

HOUSE POSITIONS

1. TEES 268 POINTS
2. KENT 209 POINTS
3. SWALE 175 POINTS
4. SKERNE 73.5 POINTS

We have had Year 11, 10 and 9 into school over the last two days for tests – the rate of consent for testing has been between 80 and 85% in every year group which I think is a very reassuring figure for both staff and parents. There have been no positive tests. Testing in school continues for the next two weeks so that every Senior pupil with consent will have had three tests. Thank you for your support in getting pupils into school for those tests.

Thank you also for your support with the CPD day for staff on Wednesday – we had a very productive day with a real focus on our areas for development as well as practical time to get the school ready for pupils returning. In fact I would like to say again how fantastic parental support has been – we really couldn't have done Home Learning without you.

On Monday morning we have the normal start times for Juniors, but slightly different ones for Senior pupils so that we can have assemblies to reiterate the health and safety routines which are so important. As a reminder:

Year 7	8.30am Polam Road Gate – test then to lessons
Year 8	11.30am Polam Road Gate – test then to lessons
Year 9	10.00am Main Gate
Year 10	9.15am Main Gate
Year 11	8.20am Main Gate

A final word – a reminder that the wonderful Bekker family are completing their fundraising running challenge this weekend – and are raising funds for the garden in memory of Amelia Davies. If you haven't yet donated and would like to do so the link is here:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/teambekker?utm_term=age7jegQ3

Have a lovely weekend – we are so looking forward to having everyone back in school on Monday!

Best wishes



Kate Reid