



Executive Headteacher: Mrs C Wilson M.A (ED)  
Associate Headteacher: Mrs L Wood  
Fir Tree Lane, Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 2RA  
Tel: 01635 42129 Fax: 01635 230484  
Email: office@firtree.newburyacademytrust.org

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy Monday everyone! The weeks just seem to be flying by at present. As always, I hope that everyone is safe and well.

Following the recent announcement, we have been in contact with parents of the specified year groups to look at numbers of pupils likely to return. I know you will appreciate re-opening the school is not a quick task and lots of things need to be considered and planned. We are currently looking at the provision that we will be able to provide for the suggested year groups, as well as those children classed as vulnerable and key worker children. At the moment I don't have all the answers to your questions, however, as soon as we know how we will be moving forward I will communicate all the details. Rest assured that our plans for reopening will only happen when I am satisfied that we can re-open safely for children and staff.

It's the start of a new week, so as always it is time for assembly, and my thought for the week to aid discussions at home. This week's Headteacher's school assembly is based on a topic being discussed in the news this week.

**This week's assembly is focused on:**



**An Italian architect is planning a city of skyscrapers! Luca Curci said that he wanted to build four self-sufficient, interconnected towers with trees, wildlife and farms. He claimed that his buildings for 200,000 people would be the best way to tackle population growth, pollution and poverty. He says his project, The Link, could save the world and halt urban sprawl. He says, "We need a sustainable vision, my towers are designed to encourage a sense of community."**

## Question: If you could live anywhere, where would it be?

You may this week's Virtual Assembly here: [www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss](http://www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss)

Or discuss yourself as follows:

### Listen, think, share

- Look at this week's poster and talk about what we can see.
- Explain that the picture is of a design by an Italian architect called Luca Curci.
- Do you know what an architect does?
- Explain that an architect designs houses and buildings, making sure that they are safe and structured in a way that makes it easy for us to live our lives.
- Do you like the look of the building?
- Do you think it's important for our homes to look nice?
- What do you think are the most important factors to where our homes are and what they look like?
- Read through the information found on the assembly resource, which provides an overview of Luca Curci's project, The Link. Would you like to live there?

Assembly Resource

Read through the information found on the assembly resource, which provides an overview of Luca Curci's project, The Link. Would you like to live there?


#### What is the Link Project?

The Link is a design for a vertical city made up of four towers joined together.

The architects describe it as 'a self-sustainable city-forest that will produce oxygen for cleaner air.'

The Link will also control the temperature and lighting system for all who live there.

#### Architect, Luca Curci's, design for the Link City-Forest



#### Interesting facts about the project...


There is space for over 2 million plants to grow to help improve air quality.

Each tower will have many facilities including, swimming pools, social clubs and markets.

The tallest tower, is designed to house all the 200,000 residents and will have 300 floors!

#### What are the aims of the Link?

The Link project aims to improve the overall quality of life by promoting sustainability, smart city technology and tackling the rise of urban sprawl (when cities and towns grow very quickly without thinking about the local area).



Source: Designboom.com

Activat  
Go to Se

- How is it different from how you live now?
- Can you think of any benefits to living there, or downsides?
- Are there any wider benefits to the world?
- Watch this week's useful video <https://bit.ly/2KXsw38> which also shows Luca's designs for the very different city.

- Do we think this is likely to be what new homes could look like in the future?
- If you designed a house, what things would be important to you?
- Where would your house be? Would it be in a busy city, or somewhere quieter? Why?

### Reflection

People around the world live in a wide variety of places and types of housing. There are many different reasons why people live where they do; to be near to family or friends, for work or just because they are happy living there!

### This Week's Useful Vocabulary

**Architect** – a person who designs buildings.

**Interconnected** – having all parts linked or connected.

**Poverty** – the state of being extremely poor.

**Self-sufficient** – being able to produce or make everything that is needed without any outside help.

**Skyscraper** – a very tall building with many storeys.

**Sustainable** – a plan, method or system that is able to continue at a certain rate or level of activity.

I hope that you have found assemblies helpful, even interesting from your own point of view. In school they are normally 30 minutes and are a nice way to start your Monday or to use when your children need a break from learning, enjoy!!



My thought for the week is based on reflection. During these times it's easy to reflect on the negative and to criticise ourselves, as well as missing all the things we usually do. To keep up spirits try to think of at least one thing every day that is good, you will be surprised!

As always I hope that you are all safe. Have an enjoyable week and thank you for all your support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Wood  
**Associate Headteacher**