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Friday 3rd July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As always, I hope this weekly update finds everyone **well and safe!**

Thank you for your support and understanding during the last 14 weeks of lockdown. This lockdown has created significant challenges, with emotions being tested during this time, and I can see that tensions are high and we all just want it to end. The good news is the government have decided that **all students will be back in school in September. This is fantastic news for everyone.**

We are awaiting further government guidelines on how the **full return to school** will be managed in September, but it looks like the reduction of social distancing is key to normality. Of course, **we must also ensure safety for everyone** when the school reopens, and a lot of our current **good practice** can continue into the next academic year. Our planning is looking at what September will look like as we await government guidelines. I do not envy their job, as whatever they announce will have flaws and issues. All we can do is strive to make the best of the information and apply this to our own contexts. **There will be more to follow on this.**

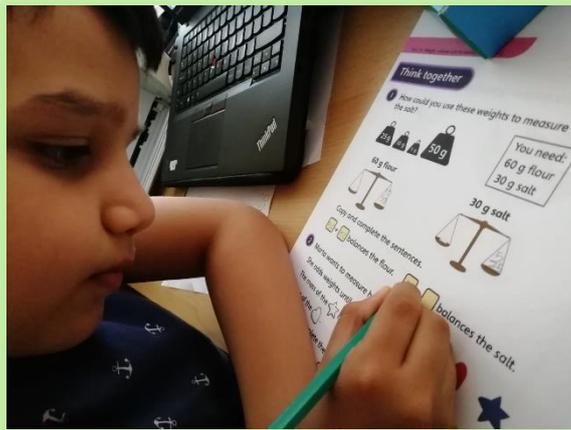
Normally, at this time of year we inform parents and children of the **classes for the next academic year**. Once the details from the Government have been released and our plans are finalised, I will be in a position to confirm the class arrangements for 2020/21. Transition of course will be more challenging this year, with the usual class swap over days unable to happen. We will be sending **transition booklets** home to you, to help prepare the children's return to school and as you are aware we are planning to invite the current **Year 2, 3, 4 and 5 children** onto the school field at the end of term for some **activities and a picnic**, which we think will be of benefit to them both socially and emotionally before the term ends. Further details related this have been emailed to parents within those year groups this week.

In last week's update I indicated that the **20th July** would be the day we would like to use for these and then the 22nd and 23rd be used as INSETs for the recovery curriculum and transition meetings for staff – consequently for this to be managed safely and for staff to be available, **the school year for Years R, 1 and 6 will need to finish on Thursday 16th July.**

Without further ado let's explore what our **Fir Tree community** has been up to both inside and outside of school this week!

Amazing Fir Tree Work:

Look at the brilliant work that has been produced this week both in and out of school!!



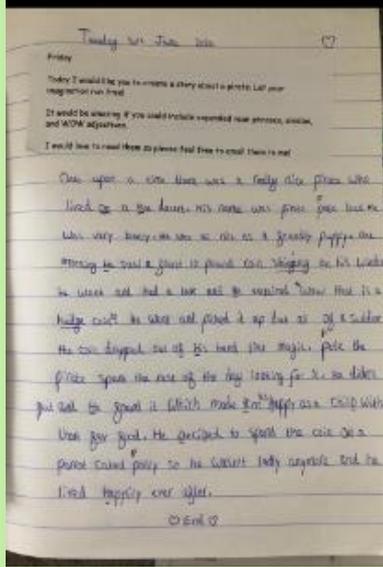
Year 1 have been learning about a very extravagant gift of Giraffe to royalty in the text that they have been exploring! It took a very long time to arrive to the recipient. As part of their learning, they made their own giraffes in Art.



Ali in Year 2 has been working hard through his weekly home learning and has particularly enjoyed his Maths this week - well done Ali!



Penelope in Year 2 shared lots of her stunning work this week; she has been learning about Antarctica and thinking about an expedition. She even made a bird feeder too. Beautifully presented work Penelope, well done you!

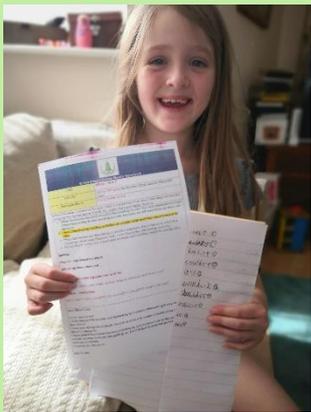


Yew Bubble had an interesting Science lesson - they made Ice Cream using just ice, milk and sandwich bags in 10 minutes! They had great fun, watching the liquid to turn to solid right in front of their eyes, but the tasting was definitely the best part!

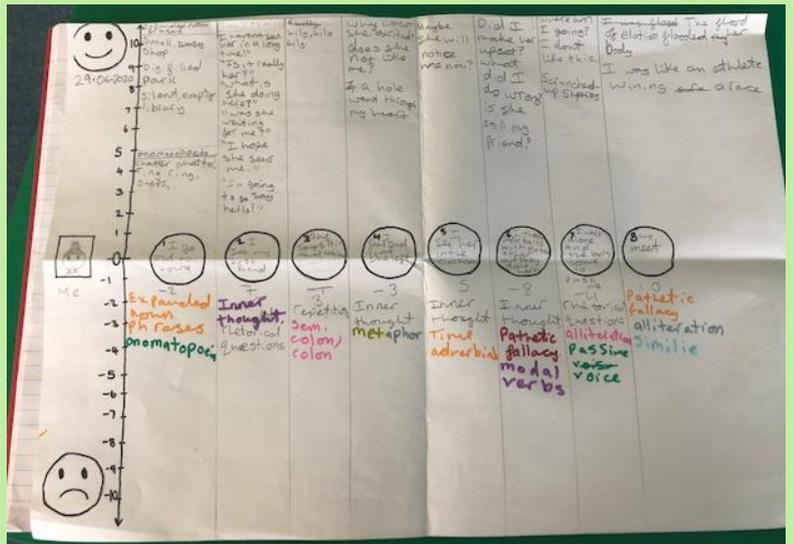
George in Year 6B went into the Headteacher's Golden Book twice this week for working exceptionally hard in Literacy and Maths - super impressed George!



Year 6A have finished their shared story in Literacy this week. They have been adding and editing it over the Unit after exploring the text they are studying in class and added to their working wall for reference. They then planned their own stories ready to write based on all their learning using a new planning format - I cannot wait to read the final pieces! Good work Year 6!



Quinn in Year 2 has been working really hard on her spellings and was particularly pleased with her results this week and so she should be! Excellent Quinn - keep it up!



Year 1b really impressed Miss Crewe this week with their fantastic work with money, they are able to pay for lots of items with ease using the correct coins - well done all of you!



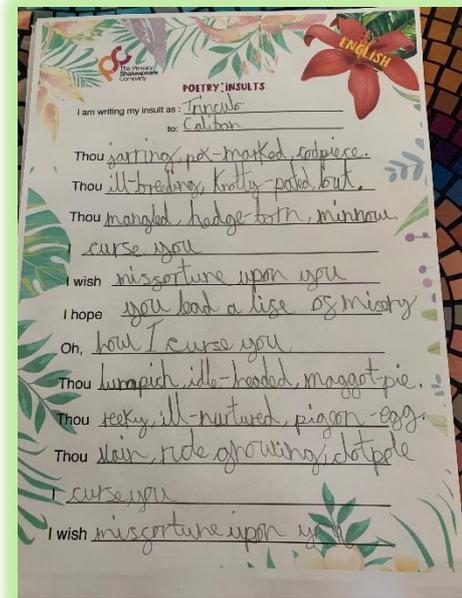
30/06/20

Today we used a variety of coins to make different values.

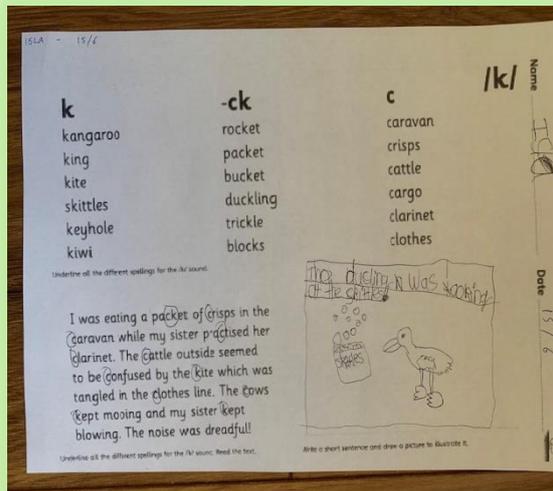
PIC-COLLAGES

Charlie in Year 4 produced some lovely Aboriginal artwork this week and shared it with Miss. Martin. Super colour choices Charlie, plus it fits with the Mrs Wood challenge of last week too - good job!

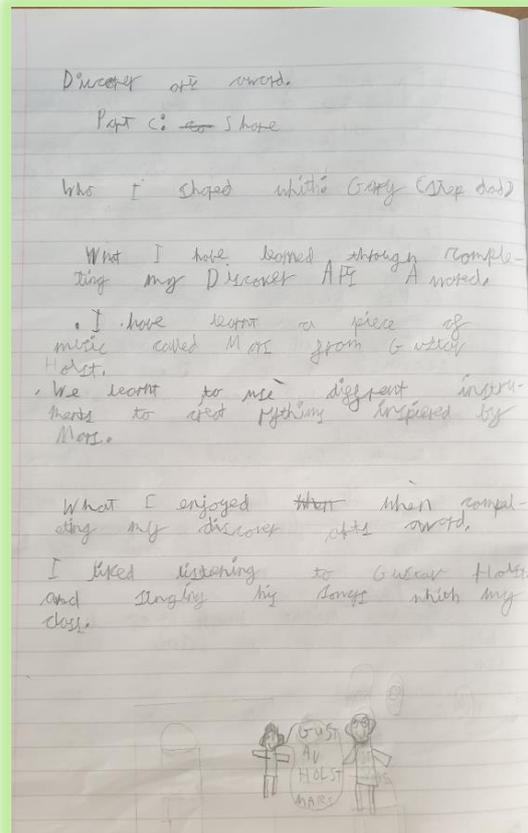
Year 6A have adorned their classroom door with some class values as part of their reflection of recent weeks and PSHE learning - looks lovely!



Winter in Year 4 also shared her Aboriginal artwork that is equally stunning and creative. She has also enjoyed her work on poetry this week too - well done Winter!

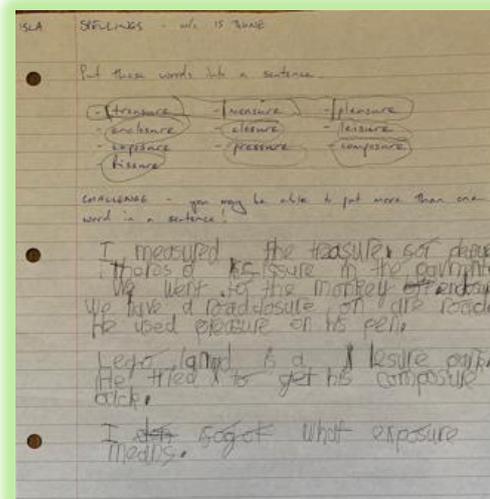


Isla in Year 3 has continued to work conscientiously and shared all her learning this week in grammar and spelling. I am very impressed Isla - keep it up!



This year Year 3 have taken part in Discover Art Award in Music with Miss Oakman from Trinity. Gregory shared his final evaluation as part of achieving the award - super stuff Gregory!

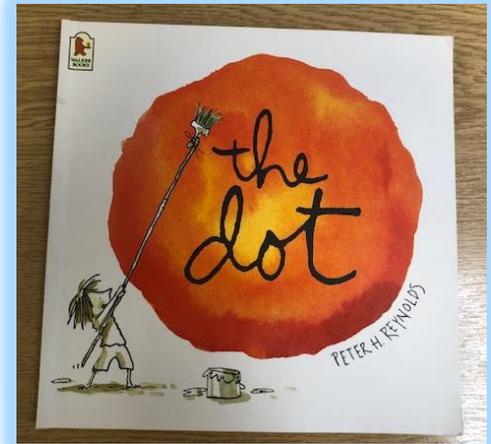
A huge well done to everyone working at home and in school and for sharing these - keep the photos and emails coming!!!





This week's Mrs Wood Challenge:

Last week I set the challenge **what can you create from a dot?** We have seen some lovely artwork from Year 4. I also had a lovely piece of artwork from Connor in Year 6 below. Mrs Hunt also shared a lovely story with me called 'the dot' it's all about a little girl called Vashti who says that she can't draw. Her teacher thinks she can. She knows that there's a creative spirit in everyone and where there's a dot, there's a way...



This week's Mrs Wood's challenge is based on creativity and our Eco focus at Fir Tree:

recycling, I would like you to use your imaginations to create something out of recycled materials. This

could be ornamental or may serve a purpose. The more creative the better! I would love to see what both children and adults can concoct, below are some examples and ideas for inspiration! As always certificates will be awarded, please email your creations to office@firtree.newburyacademytrust.org Good luck everyone!



PE Challenge of the Week from Mr Hosier:

Wall Sit

Challenge one

Can you carry out a mini workout? Repeat each move 10-15 times (reps) and complete 3- 4 times (sets)

1. Lunges
2. Star Jumps
3. Squats

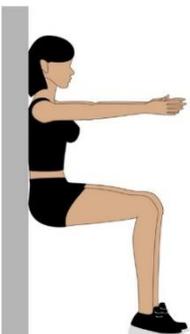
Challenge Two

How long can you hold a squat against a wall for?

Remember to -

- keep your back straight and pressed up against the wall
- knees at a 90

- knee not to go over your ankle
- head up



Finally, I have included these links from the latest update from the Government:

Updated guidance on what parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

Home learning and children staying safe.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-from-abuse-and-harm/advice-to-parents-and-carers-on-keeping-children-safe-from-abuse-and-harm>

Government's central "Stay Alert" campaign leaflet and films below are for parents of children in primary

<https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/schools-/resources/leaflets/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BiefaCf2fvY>

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes



Mrs L Wood
Associate Headteacher