



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

Thursday 7th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Another week has been and gone, and as a very significant event will be remembered tomorrow, I thought it may be prudent to share an additional assembly with you today. <https://www.assemblies.org.uk/pri/3508/ve-day-celebrations> has some lovely pictures you might want to show. Please remember this is optional, you may just watch the video and show the slides and / or just talk about it. There has been plenty of media coverage this week too and I know class teachers have also set some related tasks.

Just a reminder that BBC Bitesize are now publishing programmes the day/evening before to help teachers and parents to support/provide home learning. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>. We will continue to put this onto our home learning page for you every evening so that you are aware of what is planned and coming up. The teachers are aware of the resources and may use them within the activities they set – but you may find them useful too.

Thank you to those of you who have added to our school fence to thank key workers; it really looks lovely and is taking shape well.

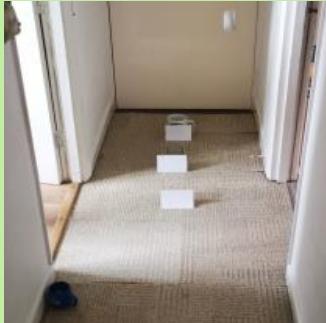


As always I continue to be immensely proud of all the staff and pupils at Fir Tree who have shown tremendous resilience, respect and determination during this time. You may have seen that our challenges made the Newbury Weekly News last week! I have received many lovely emails from parents expressing how their children are enjoying the challenges and love looking at these with them every week along with much gratitude for the support and provision we are providing during this unprecedented time. Together we can Fir Tree! So with that theme in mind, let's look at the fabulous things that have happened this week!

The Fir Tree Challenge:



Abbey, Year 1 and her brother Ethan, Year 5 have continued to work through the challenges. They have completed tasks 24 & 31. They built an indoor bowling alley and attempted the teabag challenge - well done you two!



Gregory in Year 3 has been busy with some of the challenges at the beginning of this week. He has completed the building a tower (Task3) and has used his sister as a unit of measurement! He decided that his sister's cot was an excellent place to catch up on Harry Potter for his half an hour of reading. (Task1) Finally, he designed a paper aeroplane that carried people and had the sun glinting off the windows (Task 30) Brilliant stuff Gregory!!



Eryk in Year 5 completed task 3 - to build a tower out of everyday objects and successfully completed task 31 -the teabag challenge (I've seen the video!) Well done Eryk!



Samuel in Year 1 completed task 3 - build a tower out of everyday objects. Very inventive!!!



Mohamed in Year 2 has completed 15 out of the 30 first challenges set and is enjoying working through them - brilliant Mohamed - keep it up, you can make it to 30 I'm sure!

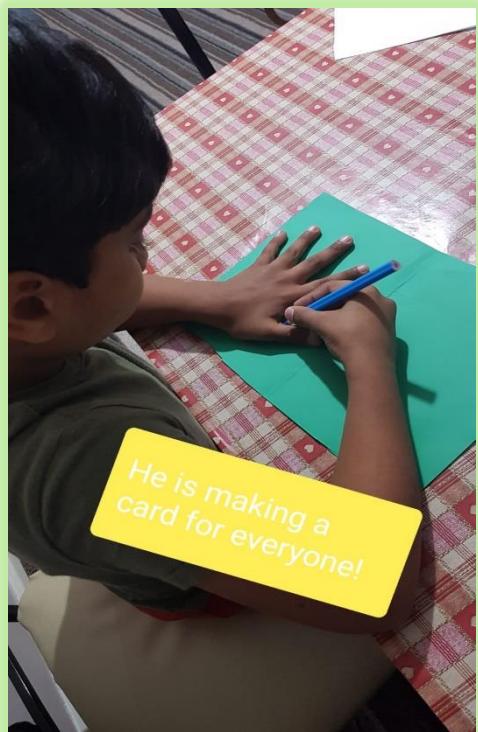
Aiden in Year 4 has been ploughing through the further challenges. He has been busy growing seeds (Task 56), Teabag throwing (Task 31), handless drawing (Task 39), cardboard box challenge (Task 33) -he won with an inch off the ground and (Task 47) building a home inside a home, well a castle inside a home for our cats Jetson and Sooty. It includes a draw bridge, stained glass (tissue) windows and a throne for them. You must be exhausted Aiden, good job!



Beau Year 1 & Penny Year 4 have been completing lots of the Fir Tree challenges! Here are a couple to share with you **tasks 8 and 28** - well done girls, the treasure hunt looks ace!

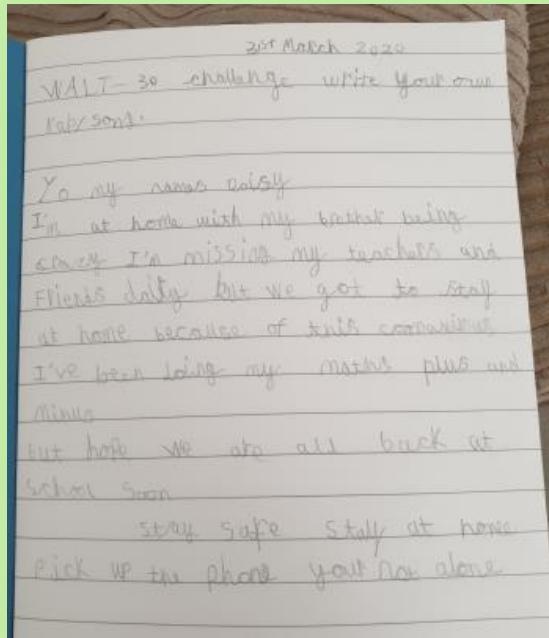


Waseel in Year 2 has continued to work through the challenges - he **completed task 15** and gave his brother **Daneel** from Reception a compliment and has also **completed task 15** and made cards for everyone - well done Waseel!





Daisy in Year 2 completed tasks 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 17, 21, 28, 23, 29, 19, 13 & 11 - she looks like she has had great fun with helping around the house and a super rap too - brilliant work Daisy!!!



Miss E has risen to the challenge this week completing many of them! Task 12 - she was trying to make a dog if anyone is wondering what it is! **Task 38 -** the perfect circle. **Task 30 -** she designed a rainbow aeroplane and also **Task 56** she attempted to keep Nursery's planted seeds alive, as they planted carrots and peas before lock down. Good work Miss!



Well done to everyone who has completed a challenge – I'm already getting all those certificates ready! Keep them coming to office@firtree.newburyacademytrust.org They continue to become more inventive and creative and I can't wait to see and share more next week.

CHALLENGE



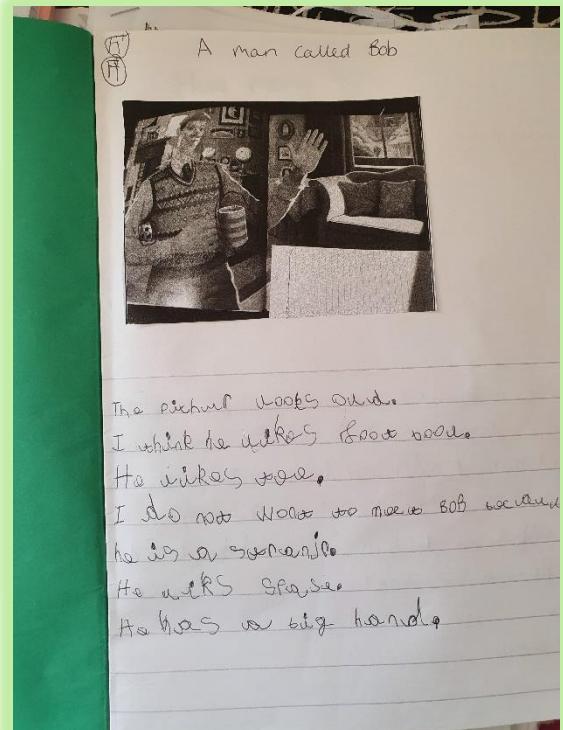
Amazing Fir Tree Work:

Look at the brilliant work that has been produced this week!!

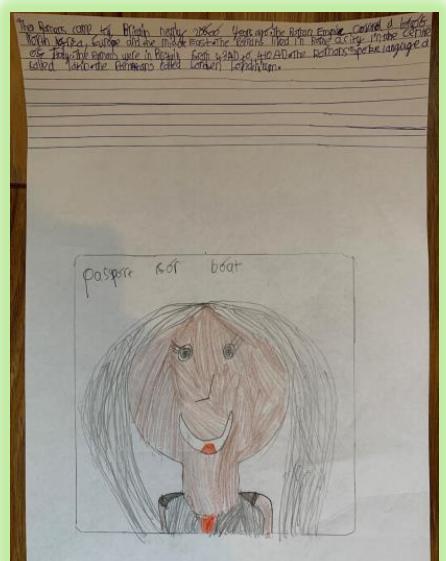
Ellie in Year 1 has made a super model of the Solar System and made dinosaur fossils with her brother Jack, Nursery -that they saw on Maddie and Greg during their dinosaur week - you two look very proud of your achievements - well done!



Beau, Year 1 produced a stunning piece of abstract artwork and wrote brilliantly about Bob on the Moon - keep up the good work Beau!



Well done to both Daniel and Elifnaz in Year 3, who both got into the role of a Roman Soldier - great use of Purple Mash!



Isla in Year 3 has been beavering away and shared lots of fab home learning, here's her super Roman poster and observational drawing of tulips! Excellent work Isla!

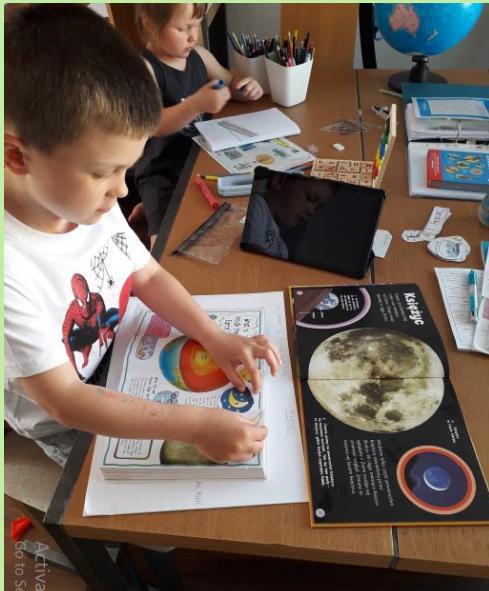
Freddie and Finlay in Year 1 both made characters out of spoons with Miss Rummins at Trinity and had great fun!



Riley in Year 2 has made a Riley Man model of himself, he loved using the staple gun in the making - how cool does that look Riley!

Beau Year 1 and Penny have continued with their Friday weekly assemblies and earning their certificates for hard work. But this week they also were given flowers for being so super and helping with their baby sister. Super proud of you both & Mum you will need to come in to host the whole school!!!!

Samuel in Year 1 has really enjoyed learning all about the Solar System and has conducted some great research. I really love how he is keeping with morning routine of school below - amazing!!!



Can I write facts into appropriate headings?	
Appearance	Dolphins
• What do they eat? What do they look like?	• All of them are very similar. Medium length & slim. A rather dull grey colour, small teeth & lots of holes.
Habitat	• Dolphins can jump really high. • They live in the sea because they eat the fish.
Labelled Drawing	• Dolphins can jump really high. • They live in the sea because they eat the fish.
Other Information	• Dolphins are very intelligent.

Riley in Year 3 has really enjoyed finding out about dolphins and recorded his findings to help him with his writing - super work Riley!



Megan in Year 1 and Toby in Nursery had a Star Wars day on Monday 4th May, it involved: I spy; X-wing; Following the book along with the movie; PlayStation game; Dressing up & Light sabre battles - looks like great fun!!

A huge well done to everyone working at home and for sharing this along with the challenges – keep the photos and emails coming!!!

Challenge of the Week from Mrs Wood:

Last week's challenge was an interesting one! It was to try and copy your favourite painting and I did say that I was looking forward to the staff entries and certainly have not been disappointed!



Mrs Paine



Mr Kavanagh



Mrs Paine



Mrs Wilson



Mrs Williams & Family





Mrs Purcell & Miss Purcell



Miss Fowler



Well done to all who took part – certificates are on their way!



This week's Mrs Wood Challenge:

With the arrival of May and the start of a new month I thought the calendar I was given today (see attachments) might be of use to share with you and your child / children. As we go further into this period of lockdown the activities contained within it might help us all persevere and spread happiness, especially when the weather takes a turn for the worse which can make things seem even trickier. (Welcome to the world of wet break times – every teacher's worst nightmare!).

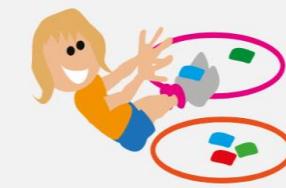
Real PE Challenge of the Week from Mr Hosier:

Physical Challenge

What you do:

Sit on the floor and pass the piece of equipment from a zone on one side of your body to a zone on the other side by using your feet.

- **In a pair:** Sit on the floor and collect an object from a zone on one side and pass it to your partner to transfer to a zone on the other side. Time how many objects you can pass from one zone to another or how quickly all the objects are passed.
- **In a group:** Sitting in a circle, see how many times you can pass the object around the circle using feet, within a set time.



How you score:

Time how many objects can be passed from one zone to another in 30 seconds or time how quickly all the objects can be passed.

Personal Best: Try to better your time/score on the second attempt.

- **Against another in turn:** Time your opponent and then try and beat their time/ score.
- **Against another at same time:** Try to get a faster time/higher score than your opponent.

Remember to let office@firtree.newburyacademytrust.org know how you do!!!

My next update will be on 11th May – it should be an informative one, with perhaps some guidance on potentially returning to school after half term. As a staff we are already contemplating how this might work and we of course will respond to the challenge with vigour and careful consideration. Whilst we have no definitive timescales or instruction as yet, the thought of a phased return will pose many questions and challenges for schools to consider.

Hopefully our action packed June and July events will be able to happen in some capacity. We will try to be creative and adapt as well as possible. The staff and I will try our upmost to make those memorable summer term moments happen – especially for our Year 6 children who have already missed out on SATs, residential (?) and time in their final year together.

We are also aware that we currently have 30 new children joining us in September, hopefully we can soon begin to start their transition and welcome their families to Fir Tree Primary School properly.

Enjoy the VE Day Bank Holiday and have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Mrs L Wood
Associate Headteacher