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Friday 1st May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and the children have had an enjoyable week, we were visited by some rain which has made it gloomy and hard to get out, but it is good for the garden, nonetheless.

I would like to thank you for embracing our school website and contact tab, feedback from the teaching staff is that you are able to access work and activities and that it has made it much easier to communicate with yourselves, and it has been lovely to see you communicating with staff and sharing work. However, we fully appreciate that in some families this way of communication may not be possible due to technological restrictions or personal preference.

We have made the decision to not use Zoom as a tool to teach lessons or for feedback after careful consideration, and this will not be a mechanism for exchanges between staff and parents at this time. As always you may contact the school office with any urgent queries or questions.

Teachers have now contacted all families, more in depth discussion on academic progress and targets for improvement will be facilitated upon a return to school. The usual end of year reports will be sent out in July, but I am hoping that before then the children will be back with their classes in some capacity. I think it's only fair to all children and parents that specific academic targets are discussed at a time when children can fully respond to them in school.

I'm sure when the return phase is upon us there will be guidance given on the details for the next academic year. For example, I know parents in Year 5 will be worrying about SATs in 2021 and the impact that this absence might be having on their child's ability to do their best, and the transition from Year 6 to Year 7. Schools will be advised on the right course of action in due course, and we will ensure that we plan accordingly to deliver the best possible outcomes for the children.

As always, the week has been brightened by staff and I receiving photos of work and challenges – you are all doing so well, thank you! Please do keep sending the emails in to staff; or alternatively to office@firtree.newburyacademytrust.org. I am delighted to launch an additional Trust Competition today for us all!! Do you like writing short stories? Attached to the letter are the instructions; using an image can you compose a short story, poem or create a storyboard? The only rule is that it must have some connection to the image. You can work as an individual or as a team and staff entries are welcome too!

The Fir Tree Challenge:

Freddie in Year 1 completed tasks 29, 30 & 25:
50 star jumps, made a paper aeroplane that even did a loop the loop and an indoor bowling alley. He used the little maths cubes, each skittle had to be 7 cubes tall and he said that he needed to build 10 skittles.
Wow Freddie - great stuff!



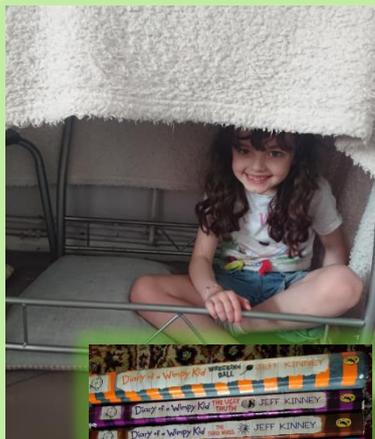
Vivien, Year 3 completed task 17 - she has arranged all her books alphabetically. Looking cool too Vivien!! She also **completed task 18** - host a birthday party for a teddy or a toy!



Annabelle in Year 2 has completed tasks 1, 5, 8, 11, 13, 15, 16, 20, 22, 23, 26, 29 & 30. She's made a den; set up an indoor bowling alley with her sister Lola in Year 1 as well read her books in a strange way and organised them - you must be exhausted!!



Finlay in Year 1 has completed tasks 4 & 25: he made a timed obstacle course on the Astro turf and an Indoor bowling alley-made with skittles and even created a tournament - brilliant!



Tejas in Year 4 completed task 17 - order your books alphabetically, don't they look nice and neat too.



Logan in Year 3 completed task 6 - dress somebody up in the craziest outfit you can think of! So, here is Miss McNally -a kind of Yoda/monkey/Superhero hybrid - Love it!



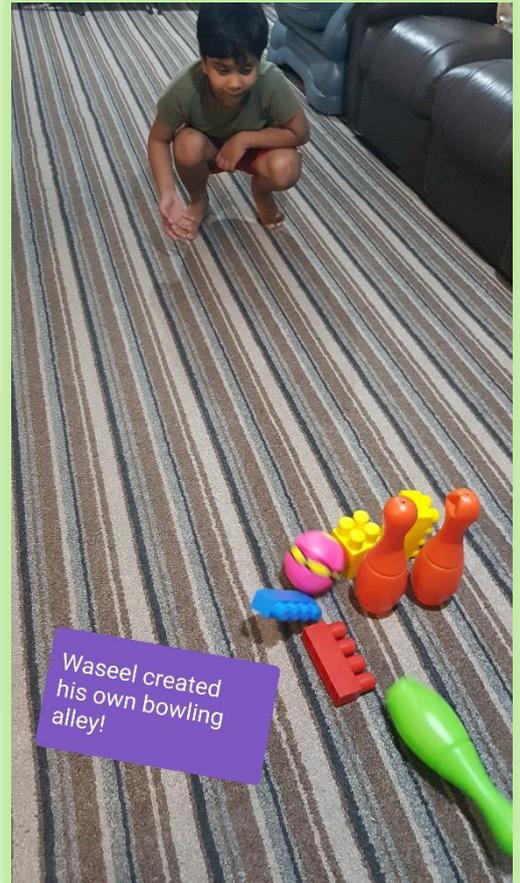
Jayden, Reception completed tasks 3 & 26 - he's made a tower out of everyday objects and made a drum out of saucepans and used a spoon to make music - good work!



Last week I shared that **Lewis in Year 6** completed **task 1** - reading in an unusual place. I can confirm that this week he finished the next book in the "Middle School" series in another equally unusual position!



Hassan in Reception has been completing lots of the Fir Tree challenges! Here are a couple to share with you **tasks 30 and 16** - well done Hassan!



Waseel in Year 2 has continued to plough through the challenges with his brother **Daneel from Reception** - this week they have completed **tasks 26, 25, 14 & 22** - fantastic boys keep it up - we're really impressed!



Mrs Paine has shown her skills with **task 33** - the cardboard box challenge! She's in training and determined to go even lower - you can do it Miss!

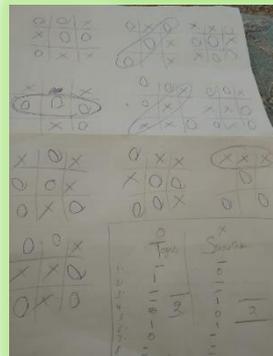
Here are weekly entries from **Miss Crewe** who continues to work through all the challenges, including the new ones! This week she has hosted a birthday party for a teddy or a toy; completed a balancing act with a willing participant; designed a meal deal (looks yum) and played peas and straws. Keep them coming Miss Crewe!



Lola in Year 1 completed tasks 1,5,8, 13,15,17,20,25 & 29- she looks like she has had great fun reading; building her den whilst having a PJ day and playing indoor skittles.



Mrs Wood, has completed task 5 she has thanked every member of their team for all their hard work!



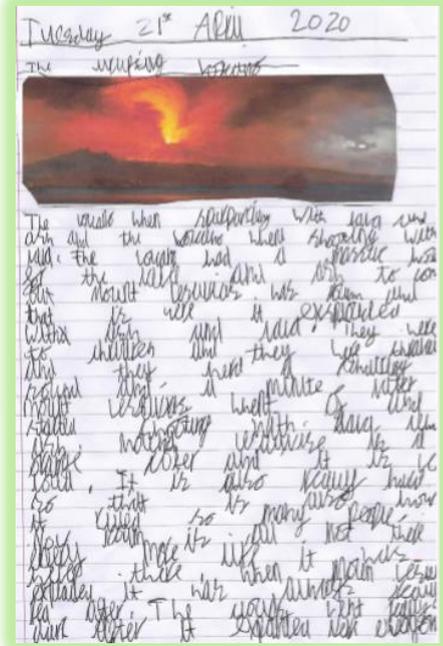
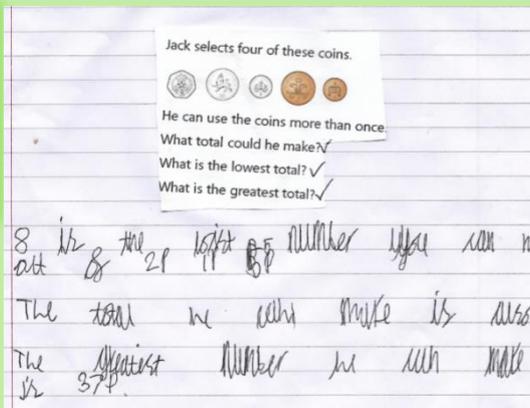
Tejas in year 4 has accomplished many of the tasks: arranging books in alphabetical order (17), reading in an unusual place (1), making a tower (3), playing noughts and crosses (19), and (23) an experiment of volcano eruption with lava flowing out - excellent!



Amazing Fir Tree Work:

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

Riley Year 3 wrote a brilliant recount about Mount Vesuvius and has been working hard on his Maths reasoning - good job Riley!



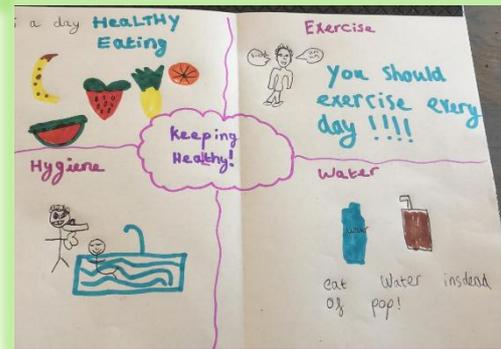
Megan, Year 1 and Toby, Nursery have been baking - not only does it look yummy, they rightly look very proud of themselves too!



Brandon, Year 6 and Lexie, Year 1 have worked hard to draw around each other on cardboard, cut them out and colour them ready to put on the joining together display - great work you two! Thank you! x



Penelope in Year 2 has been very busy with lots of learning, enjoying her maths and thinking about healthy eating - well done!



Huge well done to Teodora, who successfully achieved 100% naming all the countries in Europe set by me and in a quick time too!



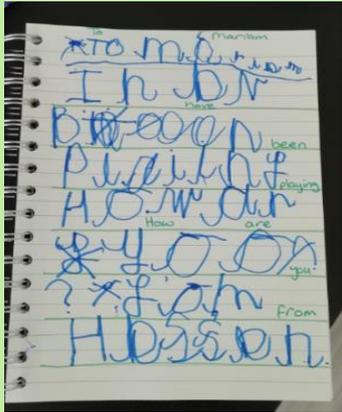
Lola in Year 3 made a stunning shadow puppet theatre as set by Mrs Smith - looks fabulous, hope the show was good too.

Riley in Year 3 has not only been busy working as we have seen; he's made cupcakes too!





Dylan, Year 6 made a truly brilliant insect house! Wow, how professional does that look - what a star, well done Dylan - you're a DT Master!



Hassan in Reception has shared lots of his challenges and work with Miss Hayter, a fab holiday letter and pattern work, reminds me of the Hungry Caterpillar - brilliant!!!



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

Gregory in Year 3 made and produced a super shadow puppet show - I've seen the video, the Wood Family loved it!! Thanks Gregory- looks like a task you enjoyed

The lost city of Pompeii

INTRODUCTION

Once upon a Roman city near a dock there was a boy called Maximus and his friends Sheen and Ferris. Their fathers worked at the same dock. When no one was looking they would sneak away from the dock and steal food because they were very poor.

CHAPTER 1
The dock robbers

The only thing they could afford is a home and furniture. Sheen could not go to school because he didn't have enough money so he couldn't talk properly. Normally debris would be left on the ground near the dock.

Maybe Sheen had near enough money to go to school. Who knows?

The debris is there main target but... someone left a note saying:

Dear Sheen

I had a talk with your dad to get you more money. So to get more money for you to go to school I'm going to climb Mount Vesuvius it may be dangerous so I hired some men to help me

your sincerely Ferris

CHAPTER 2
the ghost town of Pompeii

After they read the letter it was quiet. Nobody to be seen just debris. That day could be there worst day ever...

Logan in Year 3 has his written his escape from Pompeii story in all its glory, here's just a snippet, there's even more chapters! Well done Logan!



Phoenix in Year 1 has produced an Art Masterpiece using triangles - beautiful work Phoenix - you should be very proud!

Challenge of the Week from Mrs Wood:

Last week's challenge was a classic...

I challenged you all to see whether you could build **a house of cards!!**

The cards had to stand up by themselves without any support. I know lots of you tried this; here are a few of some attempts. The verdict is still out on whether Mrs Hunt's counts! Certificates are on their way to those who were successful, well done all!



Mrs Rummins - School Office



Mrs Hunt - AS Resource



Miss Richardson - AS Resource



Ellie Yr1 & Jack Nursery



This week's Mrs Wood Challenge:

I'm really looking forward to the staff entries for this one! This week's challenge is to try and copy your favourite painting.

Here is an example to get your creative juices flowing..

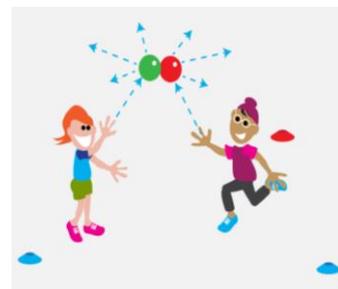


I look forward to sharing your creations in next Friday's letter and as always certificates will be awarded for all entries - good luck Fir Tree!

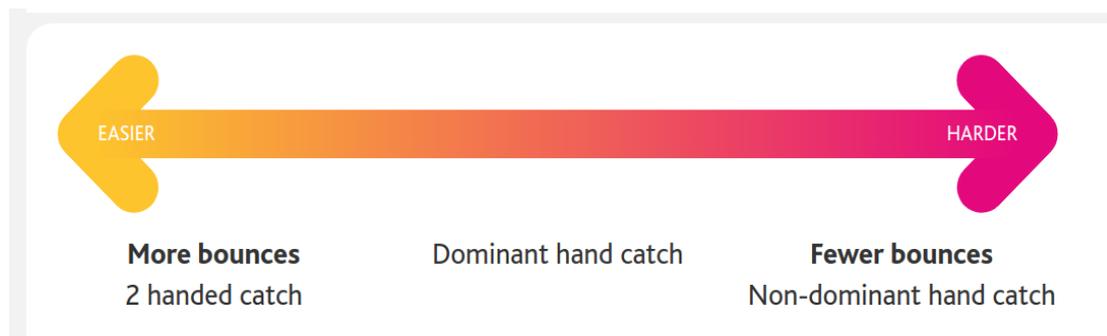
Real PE Challenge of the Week from Mr Hosier:

Physical Challenge

Work with a partner in a small area and with a ball each. Both throw your balls at the same time with the aim of making them clash in the middle. React to what happens in order to catch your partner's ball as quickly as you can and before it leaves the area.



Use the ideas below to make the activity more or less challenging depending on how you're finding it:



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

Government Updates

Public Health England has updated their guidance for households with possible coronavirus (COVID-19) infection

Public Health England has published guidance for households with grandparents, parents and children living together where someone is at risk or has symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) infection.

The guidance can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

We also sent this link last week on children's wellbeing and mental health at this time, but in case you missed it here it is below. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing>

Thank you once again for your continued support as we adapt to a new way of teaching. As always, do what you can, if you or your child want them there are also plenty of extra learning resources available online, as shared last week and on our website, but one thing you all must do is look after yourselves and stay safe.

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Mrs L Wood
Associate Headteacher