

Friday 5th February 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,


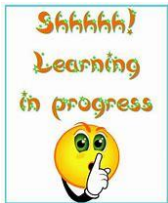

I hope you and your families are keeping safe and well during this further lockdown period.








First of all, can I say a big thanks to all the children who managed to join me in the Zoom and TEAMS meetings that have been held this week. It was lovely to hear about the fun in the snow, see some cuddly toys, laugh at some jokes and answer some very good questions. If nothing else, it made my week more enjoyable! I'll be doing something similar after half term, perhaps reading some stories, so I look forward to seeing those who were unable to join in next time too.

With the Government announcing that schools will not be back before March 8th, we are once again turning our thoughts to how the return will be managed. Both the Governors and I will be keeping a close eye on developments and will communicate to you as early as we possibly can. As you are probably already aware, we can confirm that there will be no SATs tests this year for Year 6 or Year 2 and there will be no requirement for schools to submit an EYFS profile for children in Reception. Year 4 children will not be taking the times table tests either.

We continue to be so impressed with how hard the children are working. Thank you to all the children and parents that have given us feedback on the remote learning provision we have offered thus far. Whilst we will not be responding to individuals, every response has been read by myself and the class teachers, with the aim of making the provision more effective for all in the coming weeks. As always to support you we have top tips for remote learning.

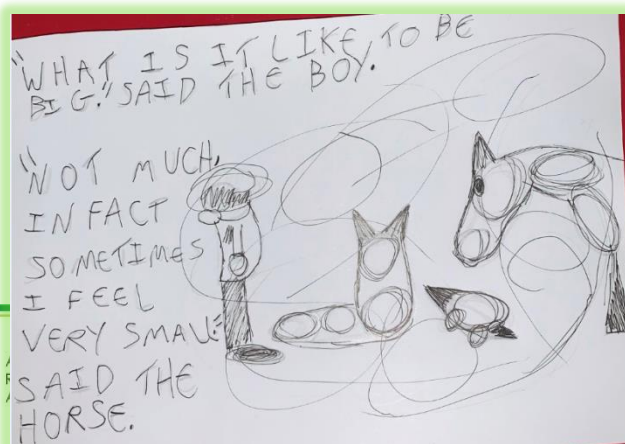
	<p>Routine, Routine, Routine!</p> <p>Set up a daily timetable so that everyone in the family gets into a routine. Include break times, snack and meal times and reward at the end of the day. Make sure you break learning into manageable chunks of time.</p>
	<p>Avoid Distractions</p> <p>Whenever possible, find a quiet place for your child to join live lessons or to watch the recorded content. Try to avoid distractions in the background like the sound of the television or loud conversations. It is lovely to meet family pets and cuddly toys, but try and keep them off camera as much as possible!</p>
	<p>Expectations for Behaviour</p> <p>Encourage your child to treat TEAMS lessons as if they were in a real classroom. The expectations of behaviour should be the same. Make sure they are dressed appropriately, encourage your child to use appropriate language and not to use text speak when chatting. Remind them to treat everyone with respect.</p>

	<p>Helping Children who are not Comfortable with TEAMS</p> <p>If your child is not comfortable using TEAMS Live, don't worry, it is new to all of us. Try turning your camera and microphone off and just allowing your child to view the lesson. You can also click on the 'Active Speaker' option. This makes the teacher's window bigger and shrinks everyone else's down. This can help some children focus.</p>
	<p>Boost Reading by using Subtitles</p> <p>Why not boost your child's reading by turning on the subtitles when they are watching television? Studies have shown that this really makes a difference!</p>
	<p>Give us a Clue!</p> <p>If your child gets stuck, try not to give them the answer straight away. Give them clues to help them work it out on their own. Remember it's the learning that is important and not always the final answer!</p>
	<p>Praise</p> <p>We know it's hard, but try to stay positive and give your child as much praise as possible. Try to find moments when your child is showing good learning behaviour. If you like, you can use the Fir Tree GROW (Goals, Resilience, Outstanding and Wonder) ethos to help you identify these. This is available in the parent handbook and on the school website.</p>
	<p>Make Links</p> <p>Children learn new content more easily when it is linked to something they are familiar with or that they are interested in. If your child is being asked to add apples and they like bikes, don't be afraid to change the context of the question.</p>

As always, within this weekly letter, I feel very proud to include some of the fantastic examples below of our 'Fir Tree Learners' learning at home. We recognise that home learning is not always easy and that you may well be juggling a lot at home. Our daily live lessons and drop ins have been very well attended and we hope that the tips above will be helpful to you. Our Remote Learning Information can be found on our Home Learning section of our website, which explains our approach to home learning. In addition to this, Mrs Pearse has created a section to support pupils and parents with SEN needs during this new way of learning to provide additional support.

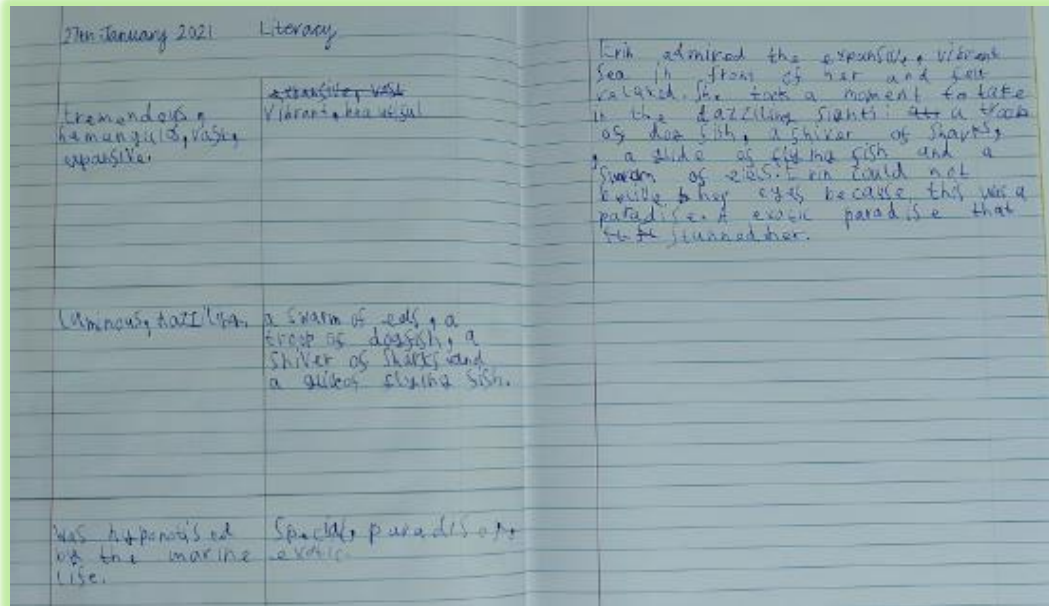
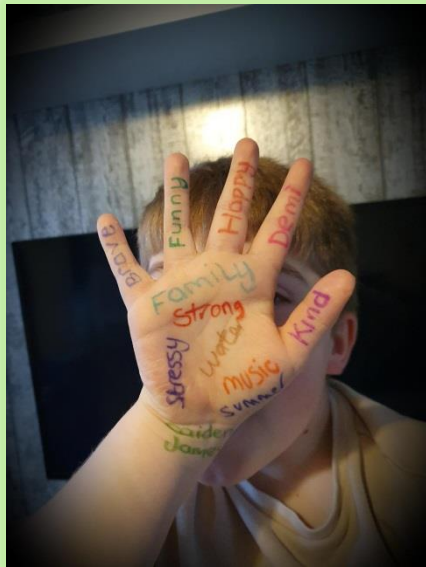
This week:

Stunning Pop artwork by Lola and Vivien in Year 4 - well done girls!

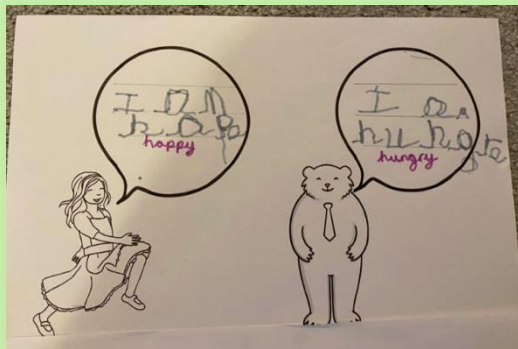


Well done Winter in Year 5 for super work based on Mental Health Week and the story explored.

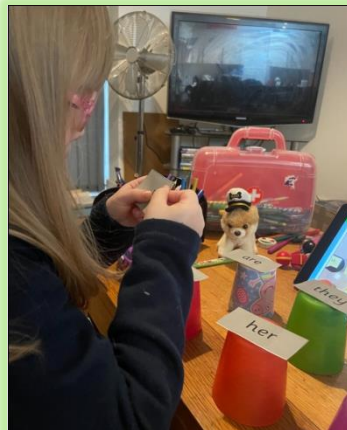
What a creative wordle from Caiden in Year 5 for one of the Mental Health week Challenges from Miss Burton!



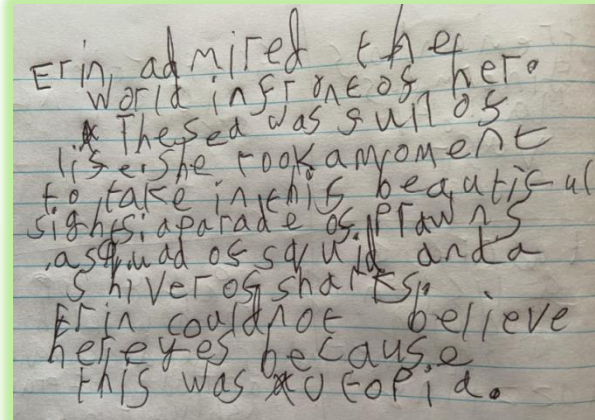
Miss Martin was hugely impressed with Logan and Daniel's Literacy in Year 4 - some wonderful word choices boys - good job!



Well done to Jack in Reception for fantastic Goldilocks speech bubbles this week.

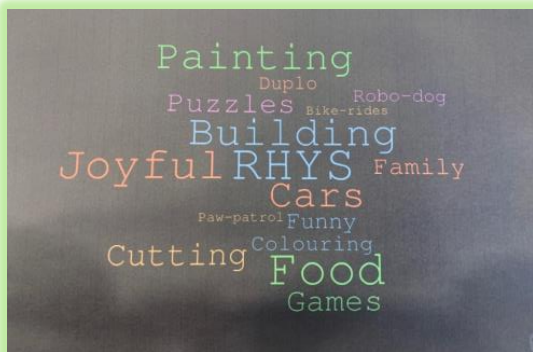
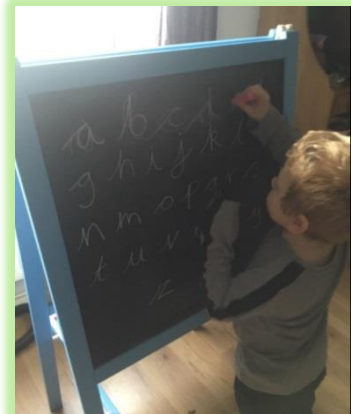


Miss Hayter loved Rhys in Receptions' word cloud for Mental Health Week - well done Rhys!



Robyn in Reception has been working really hard on her tricky words at home this week - keep up the good work!

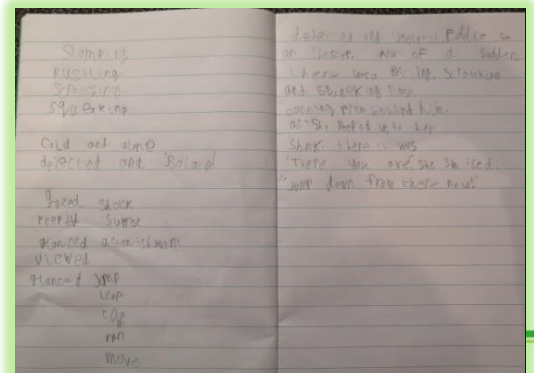
Lucas in Reception has been practising his handwriting - lovely cursive formation there!



Super job by Daisy in Reception who worked really hard on her word poster for Mental Health week- it looks beautiful Daisy



A huge well done to Ellie in Year 2 who has achieved 150 nights worth of Reading - what an achievement Ellie!! Keep going!!!



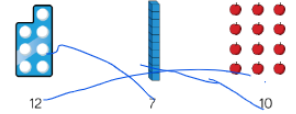
Well done Stanley in Year 2 for brilliant work in Literacy this week!



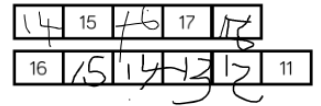
Bella in Year 1 has been very creative making her Mosque as part of learning in RE - amazing!



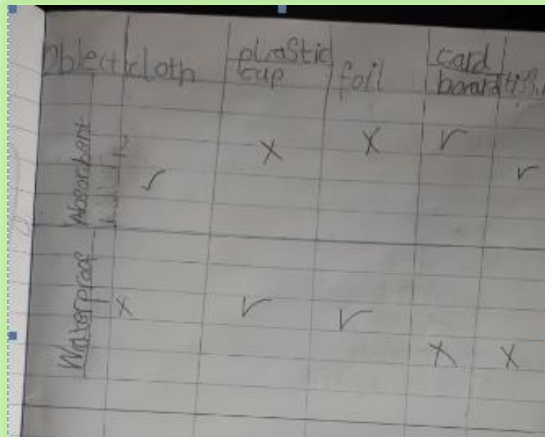
Match the representations to the correct numeral.



Fill in the missing numbers.



Super work from Jonathan in Year 1 in Maths this week - keep up the good work!



Joel in Year 1 as part of Science has been testing materials to find out which are the most absorbent - well done Joell!

Miss Hayton has been so impressed with the Year 1 children in school who worked hard to re-create sculptures by Andy Goldsworthy - looks like great fun!

Wow Hassan a very creative way to show the inside of a church in RE this week in Year 1 - fantastic!



Kian in Year 2 has been working really hard in fives in Maths this week - well done Kian!



Well done to **all** the children for uploading and sharing your work on TEAMS; I cannot wait to see and share more next week!!!



Beautiful work in Art this week from Year 2 from Eva and Levi!!!!



This week at Fir Tree we shone the spotlight on the importance of children and young people's mental health, by participating in Children's Mental Health Week, with the theme of **'Express Yourself'**.

A huge thank you to Miss Burton who co-ordinated the week and set all the children daily challenges and organised the non-screen day of learning; which I know was very well received. We have LOVED seeing all your work and that you have had a FUN and HAPPY week, remember your parents, carers and **ALL** the staff at Fir Tree always have YOUR well-being as their first priority and we thought it would be nice for the staff to share with you the words and things that help and make a difference to them!





WOW Fir Tree, I have been so impressed with all your AMAZING creations and the way you have EXPRESSED yourselves, for Children's Mental Health week. I hope you have had time to have FUN, be HAPPY and most importantly take time for yourselves. As always, your happiness is the MOST important thing to every staff member at Fir Tree, don't forget we are **ALWAYS** here to listen to your feelings.

Miss Burton



Month for February is...

B E L I E F

What are beliefs?

Trust, faith, or confidence in (someone or something)

Our focus on Beliefs has three strands:

- Believing in our own abilities and encouraging the abilities of others.
- Being able to understand that not everyone shares the same belief.
- Being able to discuss reasons why we believe in the things we do

Suggestions for parents to work with children at home:

Discuss what the word means:

- Accepting that something is true/exists
- Having trust, faith or confidence in someone/something
- Self-belief – trust in your own abilities



Discuss with your child who they trust the most and why. Explain that this means they have belief in their abilities to care and look out for them.

Explore different religions; explain that people have different beliefs and that we should respect them even if their beliefs are different to their own.

Self-belief- discuss with your child how they feel about their learning and other skills and attributes. Talk about what they could do when faced with a challenge. It's important that children learn the importance of perseverance even when faced with difficulties.

One of our British Values is Democracy. You could talk to your child about the purpose of Parliament. Discuss the importance of voting, and the fact that individuals vote for parties they believe will do an effective job in government.

ChALLENGE

Thank you to those who shared their challenges last week. It was great fun drawing on the top of the head and then seeing the outcome!

The Rainbow Challenge

This week's challenge is a colourful one and a nice one to end the term looking at next week! I would like you to create a rainbow from objects you have at home! I cannot wait to see the results.



Good luck everyone!! Please email entries to office@firtree.newburyacademytrust.org or to your class teacher!

KEEPING YOUR CHILD SAFE ONLINE



Next week we see Safer Internet Day on Tuesday. My assembly will be around this theme on Monday and the children will have some activities to complete next week linked to this. We focus on E-Safety constantly in school. We are aware that many of pupils play online games and parental controls are an important way to keep your child safe online.

Parental controls can be used to block upsetting or harmful content, control in-app purchases or manage how long your child spends online. And the good news is parental controls are really easy to set up.

Innocent searches sometimes reveal not so innocent results. So if you're worried about what your child is searching for online, who they're talking to or what they're seeing, including the different games and apps that they use, the NSPCC can help.

It's simple to get started. And, along with talking to your child regularly, using parental controls is one of the best ways to help keep children safe online. You'll find lots more information on their website– or you can give them a call on 0808 800 5002 to chat to one of their expert NSPCC and O2 advisors.

There are equally some really good parents guides and information at <https://www.internetmatters.org>



Reporting Illness

If your child is not well enough to attend their live lessons or are going to be absent, please can you email the school office before 8.30am so we are aware of their absence before starting the school day. If the absence is due to either a suspected or confirmed case of COVID, please can you let us know as we are still required to inform the Department for Education of case numbers during lockdown.

If your child is booked in to attend school please can you continue to email office@firtree.newburyacademytrust.org , so staff on the school site are aware.

Please be aware that the school will be fully closed for February half term from Monday 15th February to all pupils including key workers and vulnerable students, and remote schooling will not commence again until Monday 22nd February.

Thank you for supporting your son/daughter with their remote learning. We do appreciate that these are unchartered times. If you do have any questions relating to your son/daughters home learning please contact their class teacher.

Have a good weekend and thank you for your continued support.

Best Wishes



Mrs L Wood

Associate Headteacher

