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Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy Friday everyone! I hope you are all safe and well, well done for getting through the final week of term.

Can I once again thank everybody for the tremendous collective effort since the beginning of January and for achieving routines which are working for you and the children. In line with our GROW values, you all definitely deserve an award for **Resilience** over these last six weeks! Thank you for all of your support in these challenging times and a huge well done to all of the children and yourselves for getting through this term with home learning - a half term break is definitely now in order!



I would like to thank you for embracing TEAMS along with 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 the children sharing their work. However, we fully appreciate that in some families this may not be possible due to technological restrictions or personal preference and we have tried to support with this as much as possible. Do let us know if we can help, we are only a phone call or an email away.

May I take this opportunity to thank the Key Workers within our school community for all the hard work they are doing at this crucial time. I would also like to thank the staff for their efforts over the last few weeks in preparing and delivering our remote learning and support provision; I also hope that you have found it helpful and reassuring being contacted and supported by staff. I feel very honoured to be part of such a great team at Fir Tree.

With time to reflect over the holiday, I think we should all be proud of the response the school community has made within the challenging circumstances we all find ourselves in. I'm often asked when we are likely to be back and can honestly say that, just like you, I only know what the government briefings tell us. There are rumours that the Prime Minister is intending to set out a roadmap on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February and hopefully we will have some more clarity then. So, we continue in the same way as we presently are in term 4 (or for a few further weeks). I believe the key is to pace ourselves and establish those routines which work best for you and your children.

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

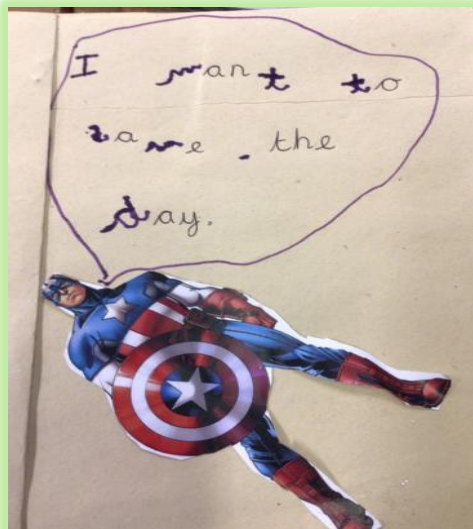
A huge thank you to the whole school for embracing Children's Mental Health Week last week! If you have not already seen it, Miss Burton has collated all the work that took place over the week and celebrated it on our school website; it looks fab!!!

<https://www.firtreeschool.co.uk/news/?pid=33&nid=1&storyid=64>

As mentioned the Fir Tree Community is working so hard!! I have been truly blown away by so many emails this week celebrating and sharing the fantastic work that is taking place and not just from the children too! Let's have a look.



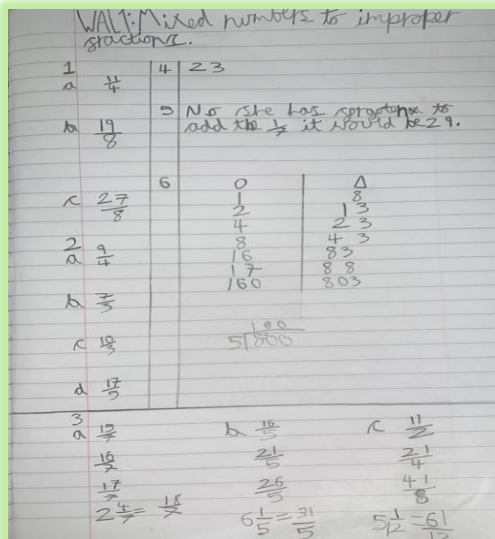
## Fir Tree Learning this week:



Lovely painting with mud from Bobbie, Jannat and Ludwik in Reception during no screen day at school. How did you make the mud different colours??



Lewie in Reception really impressed Miss Hayter with his superhero speech bubble that he wrote. well done Lewie!







Cooking skills are growing in Reception this week! Alfie L baked a quiche and Hailie made bread with her little sister - nom nom!

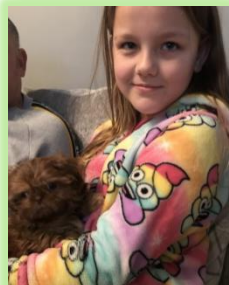
Miss Hayter loved how Anan and Rhys' measured their height using a variety of different objects.



Olly in Year 5 and Lilly in Year 4 have added to the family and are keen to share Monty with everyone - so cute!



Y1 have started to work on Traditional Tales, they have been retelling stories orally and made stick puppets to act out the story of the Three Little Pigs - looks like great fun!



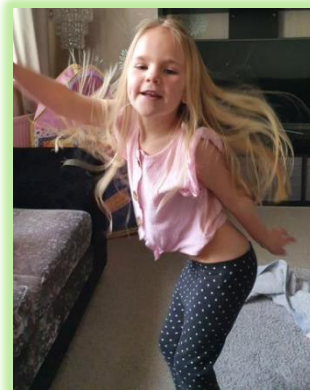
Penny in Year 5 made a stunning journey stick for non-screen day - you should be very proud of this Penny!



Year 1 were challenged in PE to complete 100 of something - to honour Captain Tom. Lexi did 100 jumps in one go and Bella sent a video of her and Lilly doing star jumps and counting at the same time - well done girls!



In honour of Captain Tom, Hassan in Year 1 decided to do 100 laps of the living room and hallway - it took quite a while to do! Whilst Jonah tackled the stairs - good job boys!





Forward x8	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	Finish
Back x5	216	215	214	213	212	211	210	209	208	207	206	205	204	203	202	201	200	199
Forward x1	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198
Forward x2	180	179	178	177	176	175	174	173	172	171	170	169	168	167	166	165	164	163
Back x1	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162
Forward x3	144	143	142	141	140	139	138	137	136	135	134	133	132	131	130	129	128	127
Back x2	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126
Back x3	108	107	106	105	104	103	102	101	100	99	98	97	96	95	94	93	92	91
Forward x4	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
Forward x5	72	71	70	69	68	67	66	65	64	63	62	61	60	59	58	57	56	55
Forward x6	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54
Forward x7	36	35	34	33	32	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19
Forward x8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18

Marla in Year 3 has created her own ultimate times table game to play at home - well done Marla - what a creative way to learn your tables!

Whilst watching Mrs Wood's Monday assembly, Hassan in Year 1 remembered he had the book about #Goldilocks, that told the story of how Goldilocks shared lots of stories/pictures on the internet to get 'likes'. Then eventually she started doing bad things like stealing to get more 'likes', and all her pictures were online forever! He understood how you have to be very careful online and to talk to a trusted adult if you ever feel something is wrong - brilliant Hassan!



Thank you to Jack in Reception and Ellie in Year 2 for dropping off their positivity rocks outside the gate. Thank you for the others left there too - they are fabulous!!!



Megan in Year 2 has earned her music badge from Blue Peter. To do this she sent in photos of her performing as Funky Fairy in her last theatre school performance! What an achievement Megan - you should be very proud of this - congratulations!



Lucy in Year 2 made a house as part of history topic this week about the Great Fire of London - stunning!



Lexie in Year 2 made a self-portrait out of food. The class has been looking at Guiseppe in Art - looks too good to eat Lexie!



Year 2 had an optional task this week to do something 100 times to honour Captain Sir Tom Moore; some fab achievements - well done to you all!!!



# The Adventures of Treesey

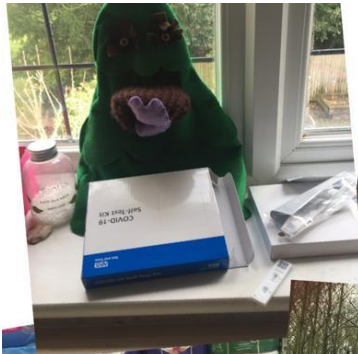
You may be aware from the children that I received an email last week from our school mascot Treesey. He has been missing the children so much and feeling very lonely without the whole school being together so he decided to venture out to try and find some of the children and to have some fun. His adventures have been documented daily on TEAMS but just in case you have missed them, here is what he has been up to!



Today I went on a walk to a farm. I had to walk through a field that had a bull in it! I saw horses, donkeys, chickens and pigs but no Firtree children! I bought some eggs and fed the pigs. On my way back I bumped in to Berries a friend of mine! She invited me round for a takeaway and to watch the Masked singer! We had such a good time! (Don't worry we are each other's bubble now) I wonder what tomorrow will bring.



PIC•COLLAGE



So I started the day by doing my Covid test. I then went on a walk in the woods. I met lots of lovely doggies but again no Firtree children. The where magic trees and I even climbed a tree as I wanted to see what all the fuss is about! I then went to the Tesco's on the A4. I picked up loads of toilet paper but when I got to the till the lady said I could only have 2 lots! I'm off back to Berries for a roast dinner.

PIC•COLLAGE



Its been really cold today so I decided to stay in. I did some phonics and played Harry Potter dobble with Berries. Then for my dinner I made Dippy eggs from the eggs I got from the farm they were yummy!! Hope you've all had a great day! X



PIC•COLLAGE



Hello Firtree! Today I had loads of fun! I couldn't believe it snowed enough for me to build a snowman! I've never seen snow before..... it's very cold! I came in and warmed myself up with a hot chocolate. Then I read a book on rising stars. Hope you're all safe and well, love Treesey x

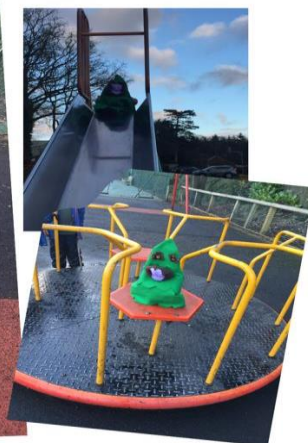


PIC•COLLAGE



# CHALLENGE

Thank you to those who shared their Rainbow challenges last week, some very creative ones too from objects around the home, here are a few entries.



PIC•COLLAGE



## The Half Term Challenge

As there is no formal homework over half term, I thought it would be nice to set you some challenges that could help pass the time and be fun too, we will certainly be doing some in the Wood Household and I have challenged the staff to take part too and share on our return.

## Taskmaster House Competition

My ideas for the tasks have come mostly straight from the show, but they needed to be adapted to make them all team tasks, suitable for children, safe and relevant to our school. This will be a house competition. **For every challenge task completed your house will be awarded 10 points,** but I must see evidence of them! Teachers and parents can also compete as teachers are allocated to a house and parents that take part will earn points for their child's house!

### Tasks

1. Scavenger Hunt
2. Paint a picture - blindfolded
3. Take an impressive photograph
4. Get an egg as high as possible, without breaking it
5. What is Mrs Wood's age in minutes?
6. As a team, build the highest tower in your garden.
7. Memorise the On-Ning-Nang-Nong poem
8. Draw an upside down self-portrait using crayons
9. Make the best picture, using only toilet roll.
10. Unveil a new handshake
11. Make something spin for the longest period of time
12. Make the best paper aeroplane. Furthest flight wins.
13. Bring me someone who was born on the 28<sup>th</sup> May 2011
14. Impress your class teacher in a different way than just working hard
15. As a team, stage a performance of a nursery rhyme
16. Write and perform a song /poem about Lockdown
17. Make the most impressive throw of something, into something
18. Do the most brilliant thing on a gym mat
19. Stand up for 100 seconds - get someone to time and prove this!
20. Move cereal (no milk) from one bowl to another without using a spoon or lifting up the bowl!



Good luck everyone!! Please email entries to [office@firtree.newburyacademytrust.org](mailto:office@firtree.newburyacademytrust.org) or send to your class teacher via TEAMS, remembering to let us know your house too!

Thank you once again for the way in which you are supporting your child's education via our current remote learning arrangements. We fully appreciate the challenges posed by the current lockdown restrictions and we all look forward to a time when we can return to some semblance of normality. We want to take this opportunity to encourage you and your child to take a well-deserved rest over the half term to recuperate so we are ready to face whatever Term 4 may bring.

**Have a good half term!**

Best Wishes



Mrs L Wood  
**Associate Headteacher**



## Covid-19 Protocols for February Half Term

For symptoms starting on 13 <sup>th</sup> or 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb		For symptoms starting between 15 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup> Feb						
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> February	Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> February	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> February



If your child has

- A high temperature
- A new and persistent cough
- A loss of taste or sense of smell

If your child develops

- A high temperature
- A new and persistent cough
- A loss of taste or sense of smell

☒ Book a test immediately using the [Online Form](#) or ring **119**  
☒ **Notify school by emailing** [office@firtree.newburyacademytrust.org](mailto:office@firtree.newburyacademytrust.org)  
☒ Your child and the household should isolate for 10 days unless a negative test result is returned  
☒ Notify school of test result

☒ Your household should isolate  
☒ Book a test immediately using the [Online Form](#) or ring **119**  
☒ **Notify school immediately by emailing** [office@firtree.newburyacademytrust.org](mailto:office@firtree.newburyacademytrust.org)

Receive positive test result

Inform school immediately  
 Child isolates for 10 days from first date of symptoms  
 Other household members isolate for 10 days

Receive negative test result

School notifies close contacts by telephone  
 Isolate until date identified by school  
 School confirms by email

Inform school  
 Household isolation can stop immediately  
 Child returns after half term if better

Book a Covid-19 test at <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or call 119