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Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021



Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope that you have all had a safe, fun and productive half term week; it certainly felt like a strange one. The return of the lighter nights is certainly welcomed. I hope that you managed to have some time away from a screen of sorts over the past week and had a good rest.

Thank you for all of your support in these challenging times and well done to all the children and yourselves for getting through another week of home learning! Hopefully you are feeling a bit more into a routine now and you know staff are only a click away if you need any help or support. It has been great to see how well you are encouraging your child to complete work set and to use the online learning. The staff and I love to see how everyone is doing and we are immensely proud of everyone, including yourselves for your hard work and support. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and we have loved seeing the work that is being produced at home, not to mention the challenges during half term too! Well done to all.

Since the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday, we have been busy behind the scenes whilst still supporting and planning home learning and liaising with parents; this will remain our way of working for a further week yet, so please can I take this opportunity to remind you that this is a marathon and not a sprint. We feel it is important that your child continues to keep routine to their days and thus why we have chosen to continue our normal daily timetables where possible. The teachers will continue to set engaging, relevant and fun activities that will allow children to continue their learning at home but also prepare them for transitioning back into school.

We are delighted that school will be re-opening for all year groups from the 8<sup>th</sup> March; it is most definitely what all the children need and is the first step to the country returning back to some normality. The Road Map outlined (attached to the end of this letter) paves out the way in stages for us to get some semblance of normality back. As you can appreciate this week has continued to focus on preparations for re-opening school and ensuring that this can be done so safely for pupils and staff. Next week we will be sending you 'Back to School' Guidance, along with a link to an online questionnaire for you to complete, for you to reflect and comment on regarding your child and their experience and learning during lockdown, this will be helpful for staff so that we can plan and support accordingly going forward. Please can I stress that it is still important to keep with the government measures in place still, both inside and outside of school.

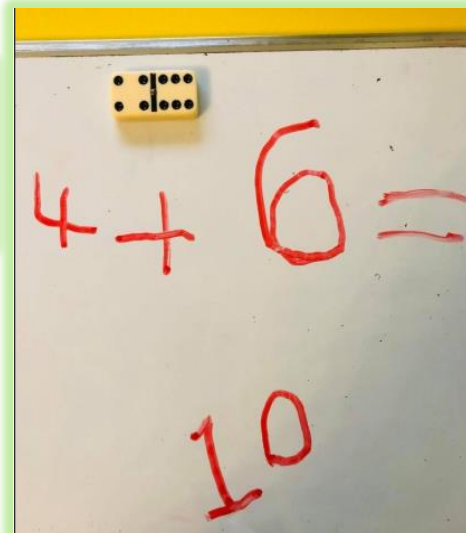


Measures in place in school prior to this lockdown will continue, but please do ensure that you read all guidance and correspondence thoroughly and as always do not hesitate to get into contact if you have any queries by contacting the school office via [office@firtree.newburyacademytrust.org](mailto:office@firtree.newburyacademytrust.org)

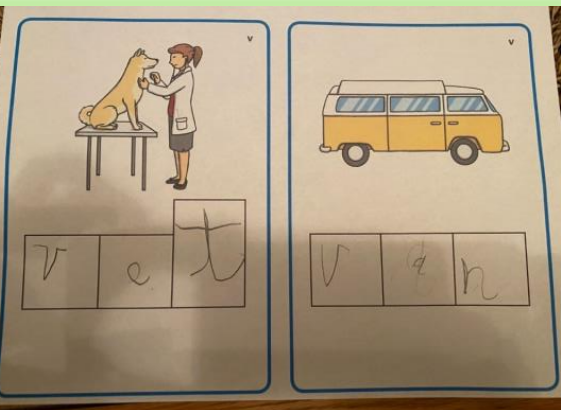
Finally, I fully appreciate the hard work and toll recent months have taken on many parents, let alone the uncertainty and confusion the children may be feeling too. This week no doubt will be full of many emotions and it's now more important than ever that we all think about our wellbeing and ensuring that the children at Fir Tree catch up on their missed learning and opportunities, but also their socialisation and routines by us all continuing to work together moving forward. So as always let's end our week with a smile and see some of the fantastic things that have been going on within our school community work and challenge wise!

## Fir Tree Learning this week:

Jack in Reception has been writing 'oi' words on tinfoil - a creative approach to phonics Jack - well done!

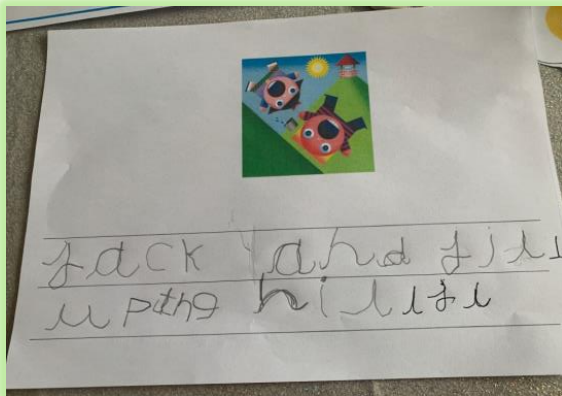


Anan in Reception really impressed Miss Hayter by finding ways to represent 10 - good job!



Daisy S in Reception has been working hard with 'v' phoneme frames - super work Daisy!

Rhys in Reception wrote an impressive caption in phonics - brilliant Rhys!



Ginormous fire  
Raging flames  
Eating houses  
All insane  
Taking the town  
Fire all around  
Intense heat  
Running on my feet  
Explosions behind me  
Odd game  
Feeling shamed  
Lonely days  
On the street  
Nowhere to meet  
Danger everywhere  
Only we care  
No more fire  
No more smoke  
No more screaming  
We are broke

Heath in Year 2 composed a super poem all about the Great Fire of London, wow Heath I can really imagine this!



Jenny in reception has been counting and sorting numbers cards, well done Jenny, keep up the good work!

Lola's independent write based on the story 'The marvellous, fluffy, squishy Itty Bitty'

My name is Lexie and I'm 8 years old. My favrite toy is missing, I need it to play with my mummy. I need my fluffy, squishy do go. I'm go to the green, xy jungle to try and find it.

At the jungle I met a cheeky, funny monkey. "Do you know where my fluffy, squishy do go is?" said Lexie. The monkey said "You're crazy, here is a yellow banana." "A yellow useless banana, what am I going to do with that?"

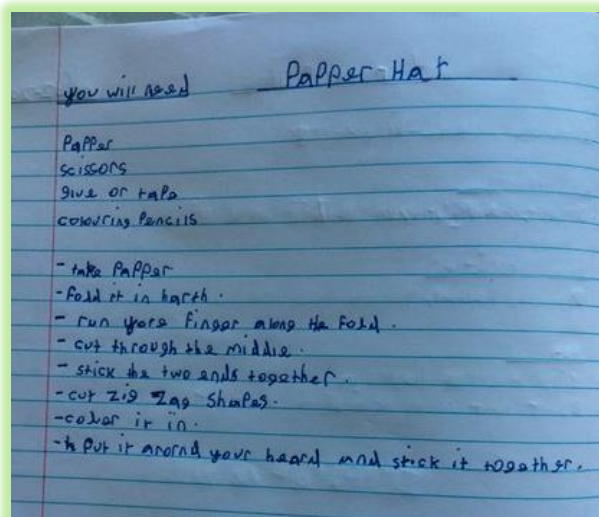
Next I saw a bright green tree frog. I asked him if he knew where my fluffy, squishy do go was. The frog said "Do you know what you are talking about? do you want a boring, brown leaf instead?"

Next I saw a striped, kind tiger. I asked him "Do you know where my fluffy, squishy do go is?" He said "Are you crazy? Have a claw instead."

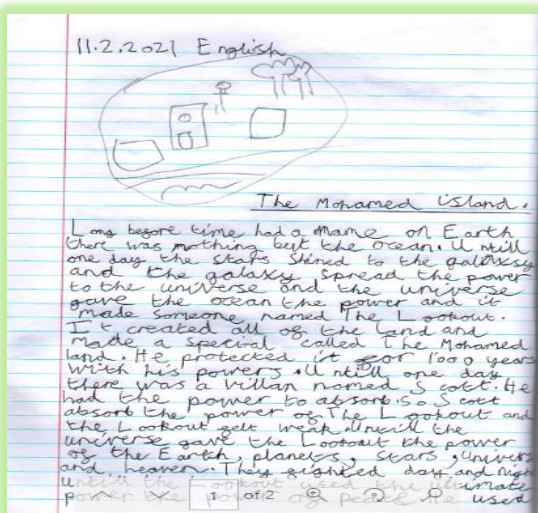
I felt sad and miserable so I went and sat next to a tree. I looked up and there it was. I used the yellow, useless banana to tempt it down so I could take it home to show mummy. Mummy said "Oh wonderful you found it, where did you find it?" Lexie said "It was in the jungle up a tree and on a branch."

Lola in Year 2 really impressed Miss Crewe with her story writing in Literacy - well done Lola.

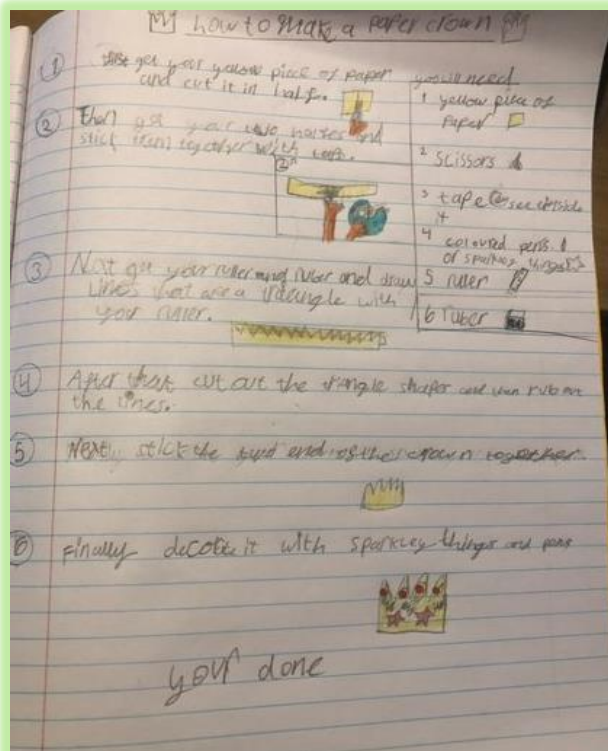




Harry and Marla in Year 3 wrote brilliant instructions for how to make paper hats and then actually made them! Stunning results you two - good job!



Mohamed in Year 3 produced some lovely creative writing all about his very own island. Some fantastic description and vocabulary used throughout - well done Mohamed.



Quinn in Year 3 made a very impressive 'Bug House'. It looks fab Quinn, have you had any visitors?



Phoenix in Year 2 wowed Miss Crewe with his story, she was so impressed with how he had written at length and taken his time. Super job Phoenix - keep up the good work!

### Alan's Dad's Big Surprise

It was Alan's dad's birthday and Alan who is ten really wanted to give his dad something nice but he didn't know what. Alan loved to go fishing so he suddenly had an idea. Alan went to the fishing store to get some bait. He came out of the shop carrying a box of tiny, little, giggling maggots. Next Alan went to his uncle's house to get his fishing tackle. His uncle said "Remember it is your dad's birthday so you can't just spend all day fishing, you have to get him something."

"Don't worry I have a plan," replied Alan. "Just remember to be at dad's party later." Alan went to his favourite fishing spot, the little wooden bridge that crosses the river. Alan started fishing when suddenly a big fish bit the bait and pulled the rod out of Alan's hands. The rod fell into the water and floated down the river.

8501 25/02/19  
There was a fire in the street  
thick smoke filled the air  
the fire went on with roaring heat  
people was running madly everywhere

The great fire of London  
In a bakery on Pudding Lane  
a fire started for no reason quite  
yet the same for people started  
crying and screaming in fear  
because all they could see  
was fire spreading near.

Bakery  
Up  
Ruining  
Night  
In the  
Nightmare  
Gate

late at night.  
A fire began so people woke up and turned  
on their bright lights. People were  
singing and singing. People were very  
very sad.

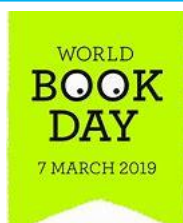
lots and lots of people could  
smell big black smoke.  
lots of people smell hot  
glamers.

People felt lots of  
hot glamers. People got  
lost in the fire.

As they see thick black smoke  
they get their belongings free  
they picked as much as they  
could before they got out to sea.

Truly brilliant poems from Year 2 this week in  
History - Miss Crewe was particularly pleased with  
these, well done Jake, Levi, Connie and Lucy!

Well done to **all** the children for uploading  
and sharing your work on TEAMS; it's so  
lovely to share everything that is going on  
and I look forward to seeing and sharing  
more next week!



**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> of March** is World Book Day and as always Fir Tree will be celebrating! All the children will be exploring a text that day and completing lots of fun activities planned by Mrs Purcell and working towards a whole school display. We will also be linking in some transition work for coming back to school.

We would like the children to dress up as their favourite book character or theme – if possible, if they are not in school, please could a parent take a photograph and send it to their Class teacher.

We look forward to sharing all the activities and work with you and most importantly having some fun! There are a few surprises planned for the week!

Also attached to this letter is your £1 World Book Day Token – happy reading!

The DfE has added top tips for supporting children during remote education, including links to information about the **Reading Well** **booklist that supports mental health**. They have also provided information on how to access online resources and services through your local library and online support for parents and carers to keep children and young people safe from online harm.  
Guidance:

[https://www.gov.uk/guidance/supporting-your-childrens-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19?utm\\_source=16%20February%202021%20C19&utm\\_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm\\_campaign=DfE%20C19](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/supporting-your-childrens-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19?utm_source=16%20February%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19)

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-parents-and-carers-to-keep-children-safe-online?utm\\_source=16%20February%202021%20C19&utm\\_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm\\_campaign=DfE%20C19](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-parents-and-carers-to-keep-children-safe-online?utm_source=16%20February%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19)



Red Nose Day is back on **Friday 19th March** and this year it's never felt more important to have some fun and raise money to support people living incredibly tough lives. We need the power of funny to turn laughs into lasting change. Funny can change things. It can connect us. It can be the difference.

At Fir tree this year we will be having a sponsored 'Superhero' Challenge within our bubbles – more details will be revealed in next Friday's letter about this and what each class/bubble super power that will be tested will be!!

We will be asking for donations towards Comic Relief by sponsoring your child to take part and this donation is to be made via Parentpay, more details to follow, thank you.



Our value of the month for March is

## Responsibility

### What is Responsibility?

1. Being responsible for a job or person/people.
2. Taking care of things at school or home.
3. Helping others when they need help.
4. Being someone a person can rely on.
5. Following rules and guidance that impacts everyone around us.

### Suggestions for parents to work with children at home:

1. As a parent, what is your job? What are you responsible for at home and/or in the workplace? How do you feel when you do a good

job?

2. Think about when you were little and started to do things. What made you feel proud of yourself? What attitude is most productive in helping children take pride in their achievements?
3. Allow your children to help you with easy household chores. Have fun showing them how to do things.
4. Set aside 20 minutes when everyone helps 'make our house shine'. Allow them to help with preparing food in the kitchen, wipe something down, sweep, set the table etc. Make sure you assign something at which they will be successful. Note what they are doing and praise them for being so helpful and such a good helper. Notice when your child is being fair and affirm that positive action. Notice when your child is making an effort at a new self-care skill and praise him or her. At times this requires allowing them to do something alone and prompting and praising, rather than more quickly doing it yourself. Verbalise what they did and that they're being responsible, taking care of themselves.

## ChALLENGE

### The Half Term Challenge

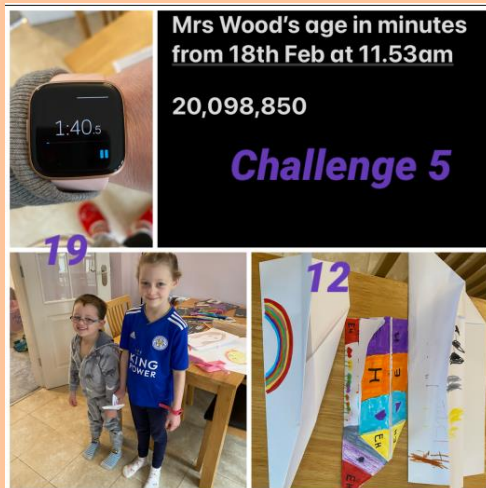
As there was no formal homework over half term, I set you some challenges in the form of a **Taskmaster House Competition** that could help pass the time and be fun too, challenging the staff to take part too. As promised, here are some of the completed challenges. A huge thank you to everyone who took part, your house was awarded 10 points for every task completed. Next week we will complete the overall house totals for term 3 and announce the winners and their prize!!!!

### 14. Impress your teacher

Megan made a surprise valentines breakfast for her parents.

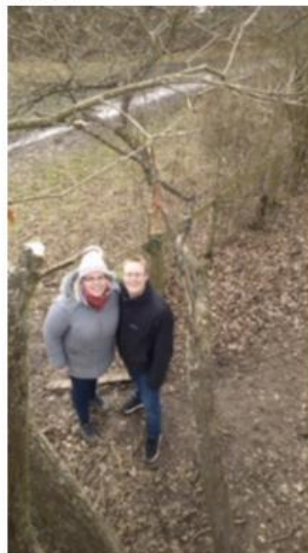




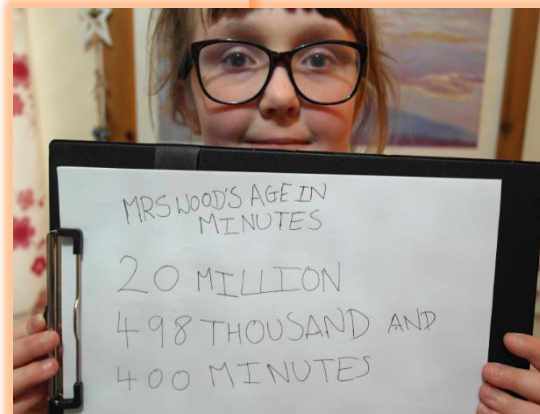


## Challenge 5

Megan's impressive photo is the picture she took of her parents from high up in the tree!:



Millie Year 5



Mr Kavanagh painted the school logo blindfolded and also some impact pictures too!

Lockdown is so boring  
Whatever shall we do?  
We just want to be exploring  
And seeing family too.

I'm playing with trains and cars  
But not going out feels so bizarre  
I want to play with friends  
Will someone tell me when this will end?

We love to spend this time together  
But we wish for better weather  
So we can play football  
It's so much fun for all

I love my family  
I can't wait to visit them  
We will all be so happy  
So let's hope it's snappy

By Mrs Hendry, Ellie and Jack



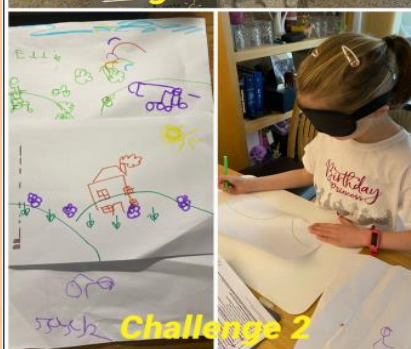
Lily in Year 5 was very creative art wise and moving cereal from one bowl to another!



Toby learnt to use chopsticks when we celebrated Chinese New Year!



## Challenge 1



## Challenge 2



## Challenge 8





### **This week's Mrs Wood Challenge:**

This week's Mrs Wood's challenge is based on reflection. 2021 has been a strange year and it is sad that we have lost lots of time together at school and that learning has been different- however we have adapted! For many across the country lockdown has helped people to reflect on their day-to-day life and has brought families closer together, plus we have learnt new ways to connect and learn. So this week I thought it would be nice to think about and share if you are willing: **your favourite activities/memories/experiences during lockdown? Or to simply express or pass a 'thank you' to someone who has helped you.**

Please email your thoughts/reflections/thanks to [office@firtree.newburyacademytrust.org](mailto:office@firtree.newburyacademytrust.org) or your class teacher. I look forward to reading these.

I look forward to a successful term ahead at Fir Tree and your children working with our hard working and committed team. I will update parents on Monday regarding arrangements for returning for the 8<sup>th</sup> March, but for now I'm hoping the children of Fir Tree Primary School are jumping up and down with joy (probably not as high as parents though) and are looking forward to being back at school with their friends and staff members very soon.

Have a lovely weekend.

Best Wishes

Mrs L Wood  
**Associate Headteacher**



### **The Prime Minister's Road Map announced Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021**

#### **STEP 1: 8 March**

- Schools and colleges are open for all students. Practical Higher Education Courses.
- Recreation or exercise outdoors with household or one other person. No household mixing indoors.
- Wraparound childcare.
- Stay at home.
- Funerals (30), wakes and weddings (6).

#### **29 March**

- Rule of 6 or two households outdoors. No household mixing indoors.
- Outdoor sport and leisure facilities.
- Organised outdoor sport allowed (children and adults).
- Minimise travel. No holidays.
- Outdoor parent & child groups (up to 15 parents).

#### **STEP 2**

At least five weeks after Step 1, no earlier than 12 April.

- Indoor leisure (including gyms) open for use individually or within household groups.
- Rule of 6 or two households outdoors. No household mixing indoors.
- Outdoor attractions, such as zoos, theme parks and drive-in cinemas.
- Libraries and community centres.
- Personal care premises.
- All retail.
- Outdoor hospitality.
- All children's activities, indoor parent & child groups (up to 15 parents).
- Domestic overnight stays (household only).
- Self-contained accommodation (household only).
- Funerals (30), wakes, weddings, receptions (15).
- Minimise travel. No international holidays.
- Event pilots begin.

### STEP 3

At least five weeks after Step 2, no earlier than 17 May.



Indoor entertainment and attractions.



30 person limit outdoors.  
Rule of 6 or two households indoors (subject to review).



Domestic overnight stays.



Organised indoor adult sport.



Most significant life events (30).



Remaining outdoor entertainment (including performances).



Remaining accommodation.



Some large events (except for pilots)  
- capacity limits apply.  
Indoor events: 1,000 or 50%.  
Outdoor other events: 4,000 or 50%.  
Outdoor seated events:  
10,000 or 25%.



International travel  
- subject to review.

### STEP 4

At least five weeks after Step 3, no earlier than 21 June.  
By Step 4, the Government hopes to be able to introduce the following (subject to review):



No legal limits on social contact.



Nightclubs.



Larger events.



No legal limit on all life events.