

Headteacher:
Mrs Jan Thomson

Pound Lane
Nailsea
North Somerset
BS48 2NP

Telephone: 01275 852720

24 April 2020

Dear Kingshill family

I hope you have had a good week, mostly lovely weather and more sunshine to come! Yesterday was St George's Day - we usually celebrate this in school with a special assembly and children who are in uniformed groups can wear their uniform to school. St George (famous for the dragon story) was a Christian Soldier who stood by his faith and gave his life standing up for what he believed in. It's an interesting story.

Children - Here's a challenge for you all for next week's photos if you can...if you are in Scouts, Guides, Brownies, Beavers or Rainbows then can you take a picture of yourself in uniform and send it in? If not - how about dressing up in Red, White and Blue? Let's see how many photos we can get!



Parents and Carers - There has been much in the press this week about when and how school will be able to open again fully. The simple answer is that we just don't know. Headteachers are taking guidance from their Multi Academy Trusts and Local Authorities which are in close contact with the Department for Education and the Regional Schools Commissioner. The key thing at this time is that schools will only reopen fully when we know it is safe to do so. I will of course keep you updated with any developments.

Learning Resources

I hope you have managed to access the learning resources on the website, my thanks to the teachers who are organising this each week. It would be easy to get overwhelmed by the amount of learning resources popping up online everywhere too. My advice remains the same as it was at the beginning of this lockdown period - take it at your own pace and don't feel you have to do everything out there. The key is that the children enjoy their learning – in whatever form. Reading remains the key that unlocks so many doors into new learning so that remains paramount. If you are finding accessing the online resources tricky then please get in touch and we will see if we can help. As always, please make sure you are confident that your child is safe online. Please contact us if you have any worries about online safety. There is advice on the 'home learning' section and on the safeguarding section: <https://kingshillbwmat.org/safeguarding-2/>

Here is a new challenge for you to test your perseverance – this could be a lot of fun – especially outside in the sunshine...

North Somerset Schools Physical Education Association and TEAM North Somerset have set a home learning challenge that families can get involved in, it is called '**20:2020 Elevation Challenge Master**'. It involves tracking elevation levels during your daily exercise (walks, cycles etc) and in turn climbing the equivalent of 20 different mountains, landmarks, hills, and heritage sites across the country. There is a pdf document to download online, which can be accessed on <https://www.yourschoolgames.com/sgo/north-somerset/> website underneath the **Related Files** section. The document includes certificates that can be awarded to your children as they 'climb every mountain'!

From Miss Pennell : This is a Government website called Hungry Little Minds. "Simple, fun activities for children, from newborn to five".

<https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/>

From Mrs Evans: **Homeschool History** is a weekly online funny 15 minute lesson about all sorts of different interesting people and events from the past, from Stone Age Britain to humans walking on the moon. Horrible Histories' Historian Greg Jenner talks you through each story, including some funny facts that parents and guardians might not know. You can find this on bbc.co.uk.

Messages from staff this week:

From Mrs Evans

Hi Children,

I hope that you've had a lovely week even though the weather hasn't been quite as hot. We've been keeping busy by reading lots, playing in the garden, making dens and starting to bake; we've tried welsh cakes and rice crispy cakes so far.

I'm really missing seeing you all (although it's nice not having to worry about the SATs for once!). I hope that you're managing to keep up with the English, maths and topic work that we've set so your brains don't turn to mush ;-)

Really hope to see you soon

From Mrs Foxwell

Hi Topaz Class.

How are you all? I've enjoyed looking at all your photos and seeing just how creative and resourceful you are being. It's lovely also to see so many of you working with your brothers and sisters as this is a great time to share ideas and learn from each other. We've been working together in my family too. We're in the middle of a difficult jigsaw called 'I love the Country'. It's a rather strange picture though as there is a penguin flying, a man in a hot air balloon fishing and a sheep in a pub! We've also been on some beautiful walks in the fields where all you can hear are your own footsteps, birds or bees. It's so peaceful. We've had to trim each other's fringes too. This wasn't very successful!

Please remember to keep reading, practising your times tables and spelling. A little each day is better than none at all!

Stay safe and well.

From Miss Pennell

Hi Diamond Class

I hope you had a lovely Easter. What lovely sunny weather we have been having. I have enjoyed watching the flowers starting to bloom and I have even discovered some bluebells on my dog walk which I have never noticed before. What flowers can you see on your walk or in your home or garden? Can you find a flower or leaf for all the colours of the rainbow?

It was my dog's birthday on Wednesday and he found a birthday stick on his walk and carried it all the way home. He was very pleased with himself.

Thank you for your Tapestry observations. I enjoy reading your observations and finding out what you have been learning at home on the newsletter. I have found a new app for phonics – it is phase 2 only and it will be great to practise all those sounds we learnt before Christmas. There are sentences to read and make as well as making and reading words. <https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/phonicbursts-satpinmd/id1183935288>

<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/phonicbursts-g-o-c-k-ck-e-u-r/id1185325583>

<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/phonicbursts-h-b-f-ff-l-l-ss/id1187629039>

Take care everyone

From Mrs Richards

Good Morning Amazing Amber,

I hope you've all had a good week and have been having lots of fun. It was my mum's birthday on Monday, and she was 70! I couldn't let this special birthday go without marking it in some way. So, we went on our favourite dog walk and I surprised her with a few lovely treats, and we sat in the sunshine and talked and laughed about 'the good old days', which she loved. Mum also had a delivery on her doorstep, it was a beautiful sculpture that her grandchildren had made during their home-schooling time. Words can't express how happy it made her and how much she enjoyed her day due to small thoughtful gestures from the people she loves. So remember, if you know someone with a birthday during lock down, take a bit of time to create something special for them. These kind actions go a long way these days. Make sure you keep up with your exercise, it will keep your brain and body happy. Have a super week, keep safe and be kind and thoughtful to others. Here comes challenge of the week!

Challenge of the week:

Okay, so last week we tried to do things with our non-dominant hand, I wonder how you all got on with that? This week the focus will be on your feet. What basic tasks can you carry out using your feet? Maybe you could try picking things up that are different weights and sizes or opening a door. You could also challenge each other to draw and paint things using only your feet. Make sure you ask a grown-up first. I think you'll definitely enjoy seeing your feet-art!

Joke:

What time would it be if Godzilla came to school? Time to run! (I thought Louie might like this one)

Tip of the week:

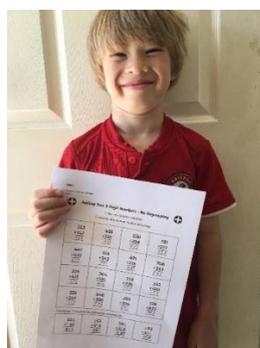
Make sure you get enough sleep at night; it will make you feel loads better the next day.

This week's birthdays are Jacob and Jacob! Happy birthday you two!



So many amazing photos this week...!

Rohan did his day 1 maths and finished it in super quick time!



Logan and Harlow had a maths lesson using the dart board.



Emilia drew pictures for the NHS with Daddy.



Charlie went on a lovely walk in the countryside.



Ivy has been making the most of being outside. She has been on a birthday walk, made some mud pies in the garden and been making book marks ready for when her new books arrive.



Archie has been busy this week doing his school work. He has also helped to make flapjack and rice crispy cakes and has been dressing up as superheroes with his sister.



Hayden and Riley have been stripping walls and have been out on a bike ride.



Kalan's daddy was off work...they built a lifeboat!



This week Ben has learnt to ride his bike without stabilisers!
Dottie and Ben have also learnt about sinking and floating and carried out some experiments.
Board games have also become a favourite activity!!



Iggy and Freddie have been learning some life skills.



David has been creating his own road and doing a day camp in the garden.



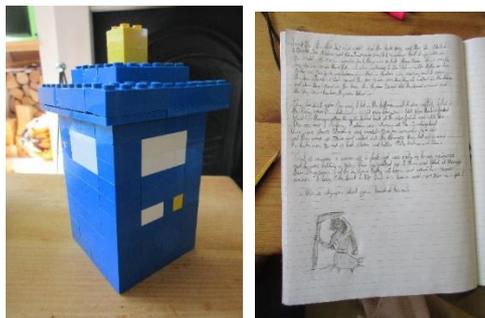
This week Megan and Lauren continued exploring the surrounding area, enjoying splashing in the stream. Megan made a coq au vin and Lauren created a sea picture.



Ellie did some marbling.



Marvin completed a Lego Challenge and wrote his 'In the Middle of the Night' Story.



Bora has been busy this week!



Jake went on a bike ride to Backwell with his Dad although couldn't make it up the hill! He has also been planting in the garden along with keeping up with his football training and English school work. Finally, he has had a long-awaited hair cut along with his brother Jorge.



Matthew and Phoebe have enjoyed doing the emoji challenge set by Mrs Evans and Mrs Bennett and playing swing ball. Matthew has made marzipan and hazelnut cookies and Phoebe made a belated Simnel cake.



Life Long Learning, Community and Friendship

Aurora with her rainbow art ...tie dye and a wool wrapped cloud.



Maxim has had another busy week learning through play. They have been playing lots of counting and spelling games and have been starting to learn the 3 and 4 times tables using hide and recall. They've also seen the first shoots from the sunflowers they planted last week!



An extra photo challenge for next week...

To help inspire and bring together pupils across the Trust, The MAT CEO Mr Bowditch has devised a lovely project. He would like each school to encourage their pupils to send them one picture/photo which depicts their experience of remote learning during this lockdown period caused by Covid-19. The images will then be collated into one large mosaic Rainbow using special software. So please send your photo to the office email entitled 'Mosaic Rainbow Picture.'



So, some thoughts for this week.

I don't know about you but now we are a whole month into this situation I have had enough! I have found it really hard this week and am longing to get back to 'normal'. I want to feel useful and do my job fully, I am missing being in school as headteacher, the routine of school, the children, the staff, I'm missing my friends and family too. It could be very easy to sit and feel very sorry for myself. I keep reminding myself that although this is so hard, it's for a reason and we are all in the same 'storm' and we must be resilient and persevere. We were talking this week at home about people like Anne Frank, Nelson Mandela, Terry Waite and John McCarthy, who spent many many months imprisoned in different ways and it put our position into perspective. We realised that this is our 'normal' for the time being. We are also very fortunate now to have online contact with each other, we can at least touch base 'virtually'. My family did a zoom quiz last weekend – that was fun! I'm now trying to count my blessings every day and look forward to the time when we will be able to do all the things we want to but also enjoy what we are doing **now** however insignificant it may seem. The little things can be the big things. Little things that we do can have a big impact on others, a cake baked and shared, a letter hand-written and posted, a phone call to a friend who may be lonely, a rainbow in the window..

I found this story this week about doing the little things.



The Starfish Story: one step towards changing the world.

Once upon a time, there was an old man who used to go to the ocean to do his writing. He had a habit of walking on the beach every morning before he began his work. Early one morning, he was walking along the shore after a big storm had passed and found the vast beach littered with starfish as far as the eye could see, stretching in both directions.

Off in the distance, the old man noticed a small boy approaching.

As the boy walked, he paused every so often and as he grew closer, the man could see that he was occasionally bending down to pick up an object and throw it into the sea. The boy came closer still and the man called out, "Good morning! May I ask what it is that you are doing?"

The young boy paused, looked up, and replied "Throwing starfish into the ocean. The tide has washed them up onto the beach and they can't return to the sea by themselves," the youth replied. "When the sun gets high, they will die, unless I throw them back into the water."

The old man replied, "But there must be tens of thousands of starfish on this beach. I'm afraid you won't really be able to make much of a difference."

The boy bent down, picked up yet another starfish and threw it as far as he could into the ocean. Then he turned, smiled and said, "It made a difference to that one!"

(adapted from The Star Thrower, by Loren Eiseley 1907 – 1977)

We all have the opportunity to help create positive change. You might not be able to change the entire world, but at least you can change a small part of it, for someone. They say that one of the most common reasons we don't do things is because we see the challenge before us as overwhelming, and that a good way to counter that is to break the big challenge down into smaller pieces and then take those one at a time – like one starfish at a time. And to that one starfish, it can make a world of difference.



God Bless

Mrs Thomson

And finally, from all of us... (thanks to Mrs Hotchkiss for putting this together - what a lovely bunch)



Life Long Learning, Community and Friendship