



St. Paul's Dorking

Church of England (Aided) Primary School

Newsletter | Friday 22nd January 2021 | No. 10

Inspiring Learning, Nurturing Wholeness

Dear Parents and Carers,

I trust this letter finds you well. I am delighted that staff and children have remained well, so thank you to you and the staff for doing all they can to stay as safe as possible. The R rate is falling in Dorking according to the SCC and Mole Valley is the lowest borough in the whole county. This is very encouraging. Thank you too to those parents who are critical workers but have reduced the numbers of days that they require a place in school. This is helping significantly to reduce the number of people in the school building.

Staff continue to work tirelessly to facilitate both remote and in-school learning. As you know we have a two week rotation where one of the teachers and one of the TAs lead learning in school and the others on the team lead the remote learning and then they swap for the following week. This shares the stresses and challenges that they each bring, and also means that whether the children are in school or at home they get to see their teacher regularly. See over for a sample of some fantastic home learning from across the year groups.

Thank you so much for your encouraging words with regard to the remote learning. 113 (which is well over half of the families who are accessing home learning) of you completed the questionnaire that we sent out this week. The results are extremely helpful and encouraging. 83% of you are happy or very happy with the remote offer. 100% of you have said they can access Teams and the learning, with 96% saying it is reasonably easy to find and of those 68% said it is easy to access. We are extremely encouraged that 96% of you felt that the learning was appropriately pitched.

More than three quarters of parents found the videos very helpful and 97% of you feel happy or quite happy with the support we are offering. We are so pleased that so many of you feel that we have found the right balance, with one saying "amazing" and another saying "spot on!"

The huge majority of you felt that the work was marked and returned in a timely fashion (97%), though about a fifth of you felt that our feedback could be improved so we will be looking into this in the weeks ahead to see if we can make further adjustments.

It was helpful to understand that quite a proportion of children are sharing devices, and we may be able to assist as we still have a few available so we will be in touch specifically with those parents for whom this is a particular issue. However, we were extremely surprised that 75% of you are printing work. This was not our intention and we have tried to enable you to let your child read the tasks/activities off the screen and then complete it on paper/exercise book —please don't feel you have to print out tasks daily. All of the assignments go 'live' at 8am and from that point the children can 'turn in' their learning.

You may have seen in the media that there has been an increase in children engaging in inappropriate online activity. Please can I urge you to check that your parental restrictions are in place and that you are regularly checking these; sometimes an upgrade can knock these setting off. However, please don't assume that parental controls will block all inappropriate contact or sites. We will be reminding children of the Online Safety Rules that we review as part of the Computing Curriculum every year, but you may wish to speak with them about being safe online. Please do look at our website for sign posts to guidance for parents with regard to online safety and the information provided by **Parent Info.org** **NSPCC.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety** **parentzone.org.uk** and **thinkyouknow.co.uk** will help you to navigate this very challenging area of parenting.

I hope that you are able to see some rays of sunshine in what feels a very challenging time at the moment. Your children have shared some real positives this week and I trust you have been able to see some too,

You are all in our thoughts and prayers at this time. Best wishes, Mrs Alden



Blue Peter Channel Now On YouTube

The BBC have asked us to inform you that they are uploading lots and lots of the Blue Peter videos for 5 to 11 year old to a YouTube channel which the children may find fun and interesting. The free subscription can be found at the following link:



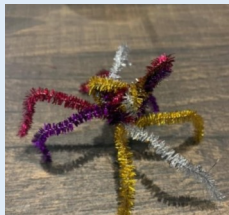
<https://www.youtube.com/bluepeter>

Sharing a device?

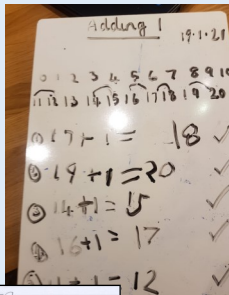
There is a local charity in Dorking called BGN who are reaching out to families to enable them to have access to reconditioned computers /laptops. You can send them a message privately or post on their Facebook page at [BGN Facebook page](#)

Celebrate some super home learning!

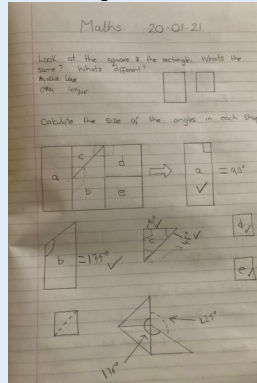
Working with pipe cleaners to help with fine motor development. Max made a spider.



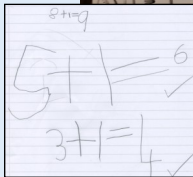
Lots of you have made your wave



Angles in Year 5



Adding in Yr R



DANGEROUS DRIVING

We are still receiving messages to say that a few parents are not driving considerably or safely around the school.

If you do need to park in St Paul's Rd West, please make sure that you drive slowly on your way from Horsham Rd and South Terrace as there are children and parents walking up to school from these areas.

Please also remember not to drive into the Safe Zone or turn in the Mews.

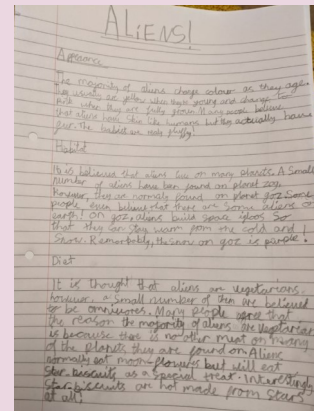
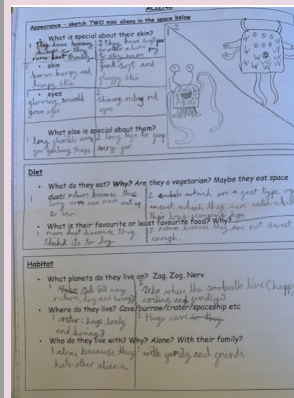
Thank you for your support.



As you may recall, last year we sent out a message from CBBC to invite older children in school to take part in a show called **Step Up To The Plate**. Rather excitingly, one of our ex-pupils (now in Year 7 at The Ashcombe) was selected from thousands of applicants and is going to appear in the show which is being aired on CBBC from Tuesday 26th January at 5 pm. Due to covid restrictions, the filming was delayed until September so the first episode was filmed during their first week at Ashcombe and turned out to be a most rewarding and memorable experience. Tune in to see our budding young star!



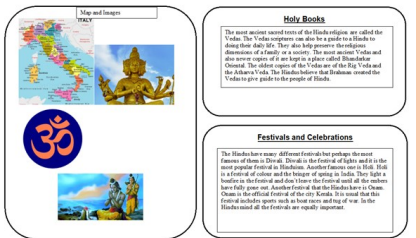
In Year 4...We were really impressed with the amount of detail Amelie put into her



plan and how carefully she had thought about the differences between her alien species. Ivy had some fantastic ideas for her alien information text. We were really impressed with her use of determiners and conjunctions. She also used interesting descriptive language.

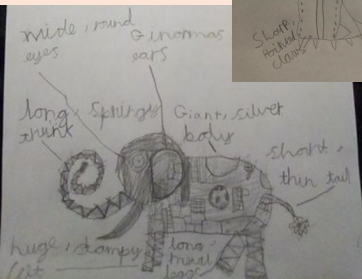
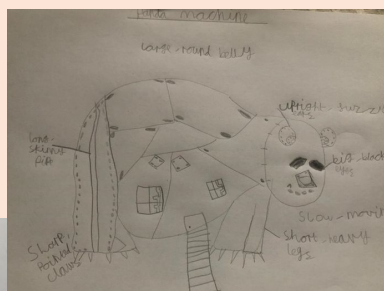
A snap shot of learning in Year 6

Just a little taster of what we have been up to...



In Year 2 our English has been based around 'The Tin Forest'.

We have been designing our dream tin animal and labelling it with noun phrases. We then have been writing some amazing character descriptions.



Here are some of our tin animals.

