

# ISLEHAM WEEKLY NEWS

Week commencing: Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021



## BUSY IN LOCKDOWN: FOCUS ON RECEPTION CLASS AND YEAR 4



Well done to everyone engaged in home and school learning this week. Look at Reception Class's varied and colourful giraffe work!

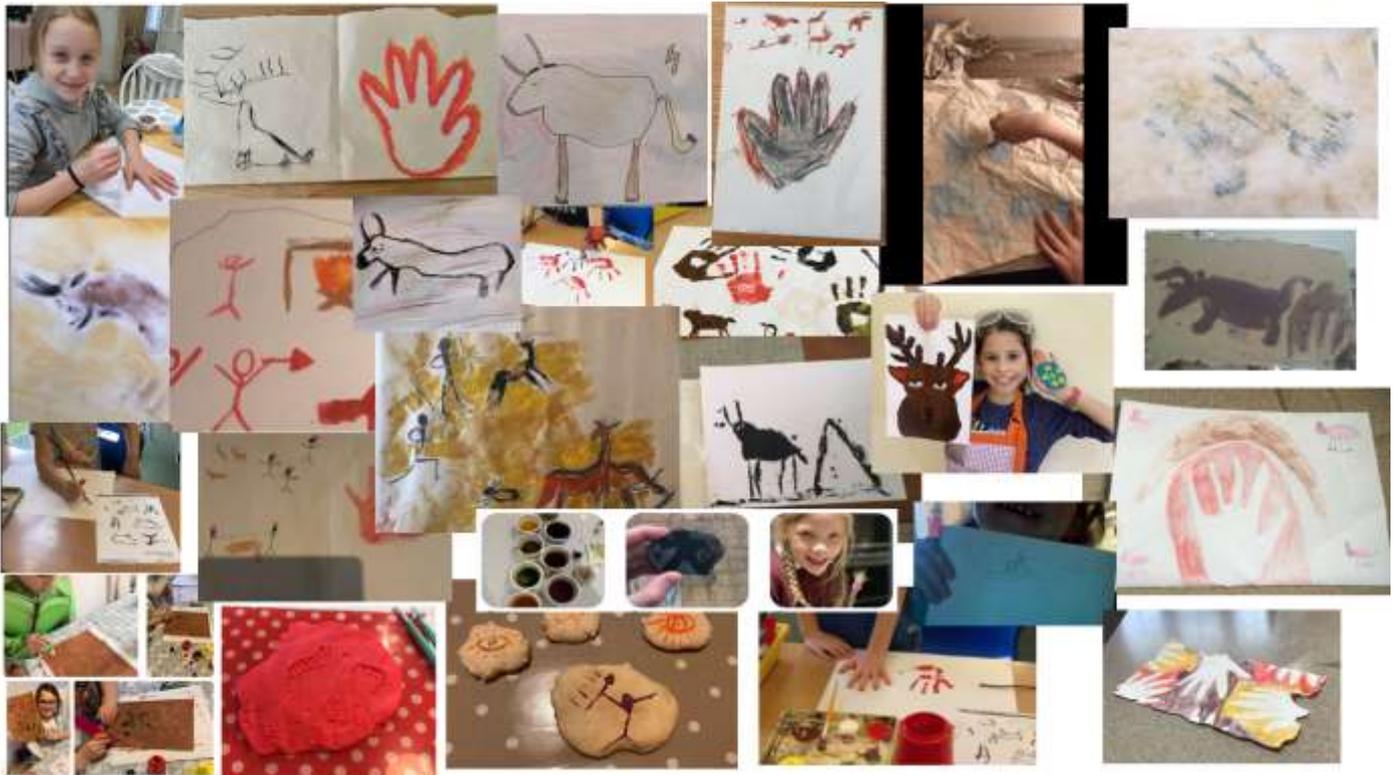
And some of the Year 4 children's 'Stone Age' Cave paintings are also shown overleaf!  
Keep submitting your learning everyone. All of the teachers have been very impressed with all your hard work.

Please remember that although we will always provide around 4 hours' worth of work per day for Key Stage 2 children, and 3 hours of work for Key Stage 1 as set out in our remote learning policy which is directed by the DfE, **the most important activities for your child to access, complete and submit each day are the English and Maths daily main tasks.** Please complete and submit these as a minimum each day.

**Please get in touch with the school if you are experiencing any difficulty accessing resources due to having to share devices. We may be able to loan you a school iPad in this situation for the duration of the lockdown. Thank you.**



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Next week, we will take a peek at the work of 2 more classes.

#### MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

Concern over COVID-19 can make children and families anxious and so the YMCA Trinity Group have put together some resources to help parents talk to children about this. Please see below:-

**Helping children cope with anxiety requires providing accurate prevention information and facts without causing undue alarm.**

**Remember that children will look to adults for guidance on how to react to stressful events. If parents seem overly worried, children's anxiety may rise. Try to reassure your children that everyone is working hard to ensure that we all stay healthy but be ready to give factual, age appropriate information about the potential seriousness of the disease and clear guidance on how to avoid infections and the spread of disease. Teaching children positive preventive measures, talking with them about their fears, and giving them a sense of some control over their risk of infection can help reduce anxiety.**

**Here are some helpful links for parents with younger children to explain what COVID-19 is:**

<https://www.elsa-support.co.uk/coronavirus-story-for-children/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/51861089>

<https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/02/28/809580453/just-for-kids-a-comic-exploring-the-new-coronavirus?t=1583831807433>

<https://www.mindheart.co/descargables>

[https://www.e-bug.eu/eng\\_home.aspx?cc=eng&ss=1&t=Information%20about%20the%20Coronavi rus](https://www.e-bug.eu/eng_home.aspx?cc=eng&ss=1&t=Information%20about%20the%20Coronavi%20rus)

**Advice for children about handwashing:**

<https://www.elsa-support.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/ELEPHANT-HANDWASHING-2.pdf>

<https://www.e-bug.eu/>



**Other websites that you may find useful:**

<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/what-to-do-if-you-re-anxious-about-coronavirus/#talkto-someone-about-how-you%E2%80%99re-feeling>

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/>

[Helping children cope with stress during the COVID-19 outbreak \(World Health Organization \(WHO\)\)](#)

[Coronavirus: Helpful information to answer questions from children \(Place2Be\)](#)

[Looking after your mental health while self-isolating \(YoungMinds\)](#)

## YMCA TRINITY GROUP

**Things you can do to support your child:**

- **Take time to talk with your child about the COVID-19 outbreak. Answer questions about COVID-19 in a way that your child can understand (see some of the links above)**
- **If true, emphasise to your children that they and your family are fine. Let your children know it is ok if they feel upset. Share with them how you deal with your own stress so that they can learn how to cope from you.**
- **Limit your family's exposure to news coverage of the event, including social media. Children may misinterpret what they hear and can be frightened about something they do not understand.**
- **Try to keep up with regular routines. If they are not at school, create a schedule for learning activities and relaxing or fun activities.**
- **Be a role model. Take breaks, get plenty of sleep, exercise, and eat well. Stay connected with family and friends, even if you can't meet up.**
- **Make yourself available and give them plenty of affection. Children may need extra attention from you and may want to talk about their worries, fears and questions**
- **Be honest and accurate - in the absence of factual information, children often imagine situations far worse than reality.**

**If you need extra guidance and support, there are organisations who can help:**

- **Anna Freud - Supporting Schools and Colleges booklet**  
<https://www.annafreud.org/media/11160/supporting-schools-and-colleges.pdf>
- **Advice and support for parents from** <https://www.healthyyoungmindsinherts.org.uk/parents-and-carers>
- **Advice from the NHS can be found at** <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stressanxiety-depression/talking-to-children-about-feelings/> **General advice and links to other national services** <https://ymcatrinitygroup.org.uk/counselling/about-mental-health/>

**Remember if you are concerned about a child's mental health then see your GP for further advice or call 111 option 2 in a mental health crisis.**



## LOCAL WINDOW COMMUNITY PROJECT

One of our parents has set up a new 'window decoration' project for Isleham (and its surrounding areas) this lockdown, offering families a theme each week for window decorations which children can create and then look out for in others' windows on their daily walks.

This week's theme links to CBeebies 'Space' Week- feel free to share your 'Space' window pictures with us this week, but most importantly stick your pictures in the window to brighten up your homes! These obviously aren't compulsory but THANK YOU in advance.

**Isleham Community Colouring 2021**

**Brighten the winter with some colourful window pictures so we can play eye-spy over the next few weeks!**

**W/c 18<sup>th</sup> Jan – Space**  
CBeebies Space Week

**W/c 25<sup>th</sup> Jan – Birds**  
29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2021 – RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch

**W/c 1<sup>st</sup> Feb – Story Characters**  
30<sup>th</sup> Jan-6<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021 – National Storytelling Week

**W/c 8<sup>th</sup> Feb – Dragons & Lanterns**  
12<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021 – Chinese New Year

**W/c 15<sup>th</sup> Feb – Superheroes**  
Like all the home schooling parents that got to half-term!

## ASSEMBLIES & MUSIC THIS WEEK

This week we will be finding out about the week of prayer for Christian unity and thinking about the values of courage and perseverance, as well as how we can show our thanks to those who help us.



If your child would like to write and record a prayer this week, I will seek to include these in our forthcoming assemblies in lockdown.



**Possible format for prayers:-**

Dear God,  
Thank you for...  
Help us to...  
Please look after ...  
Amen

**STAFF NEWS**



I am delighted to report that **Miss Laura Diplock** returns from maternity leave this week and will be re-joining us part-time. Miss Diplock will be supporting with some learning activities in Reception and Year 1 during the lockdown- she will get In touch with some families via ClassDojo if she will be working directly with your child.

We also have also appointed the following super staff members to roles across the school, who will be supporting your children throughout this academic year alongside our existing staff.

- Mr Matthew Nichols**- Year 6 TA full-time
- Miss Louise Carter**- Year 4 TA full-time
- Ms Emma Grosvenor**- Year 3 TA full-time
- Mrs Keily Davison**- Year 2 TA full-time
- Mrs Leanna Bye**- Year 1 TA part-time

**(Year group placements are valid once all pupils return to school)**

**SCHOOL MENU THIS WEEK**

- Monday - Macaroni cheese
- Tuesday - Sausage in a bun
- Wednesday - Pasta Neapolitan
- Thursday - Chicken Goujons
- Friday - Fish fingers & chips



**COMMUNITY THANKS**

**Many thanks for the Limestone Close resident who dropped off sweets for all the children in school last Friday- the children were all able to take a bag home. This was very generous of you.**



## **CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE: FOSTERING IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

2020 has been a difficult year for us all, but even more so for the children and young people who go in to 2021 without a stable home and loving family. This New Year we are looking for people who are determined, energetic and caring, to become foster carers.

Fostering with Cambridgeshire County or Peterborough City Councils means you are fostering with a local authority that truly cares about you and our children. We offer comprehensive training courses both before and during your fostering adventure with us. We also allocate a social worker who will support you and we also provide a 24/7 helpline so you will never feel alone!

Remember if you are a Cambridgeshire County Council or Peterborough City Council employee and undergoing an assessment as a foster carer for either council, (with agreement from your line manager), you are entitled to additional annual leave of up to 5 days to attend training courses.

So whether you are single, married, retired, working or a full time parent to a birth child YOU CAN FOSTER! Make this a happier New Year for our children and young people. To find out more, call 0800 052 0078, text FOSTERING to 60777, email [fostering@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:fostering@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) or visit [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/fostering)

## **RSPB BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH**



If any families are interested in signing up for the RSPB Birdwatch between the 29<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> January, please find the link below:-

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/>

## **TERM DATES- SPRING 2021- THIS ACADEMIC YEAR**

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March**

**Half term- week of the 15<sup>th</sup> February**

**Professional Development day for staff- school closed to pupils- 22<sup>nd</sup> February**

**Parents' Consultations (Pre-booked telephone appointments 4pm-7.30pm)- 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> February**



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**We have been asked by some parents to let you know the terms dates for NEXT academic year. Please see below.**

## **TERM DATES- SCHOOL YEAR 2021-22- NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR**

### **Autumn 2021 Term Dates**

- **PD Days:** Wednesday 1st September 2021 & Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021
- **Term starts for pupils:** Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021
- **Half Term:** Monday 25 October to Friday 29 October
- **Ends:** Friday 17 December 2021
- **Christmas Holidays:** Monday 20 December to Monday 3 January

### **Spring 2022 Term Dates**

- **PD Day:** Tuesday 4 January 2022
- **Term starts for pupils:** Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022
- **Half Term:** Monday 14 February to Friday 18 February
- **Ends:** Friday 1 April 2022
- **Spring (Easter) Holidays** Monday 4 April to Monday 18 April

### **Summer 2022 Term Dates**

- **PD Day:** Tuesday 19 April 2022
- **Term starts for pupils:** Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2022
- **May Early Bank Holiday (no school):** Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2022
- **Half Term:** Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May to Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022
- **PD Day:** Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022
- **Ends:** Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022
- **Summer Holiday:** Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022 to Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022

(Please note that it is anticipated the school year 2022 will commence for pupils on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022)

