

Keeping in Touch – 24th April 2020

Dear all,

It feels very strange saying welcome back to term, because it is like no other term I have ever experienced. But I very much hope that you and your families are keeping safe and well, and have found things to amuse and entertain yourselves over the Easter holidays, and the ways that are best for you to manage the very strange times we find ourselves in.

We launched our new approach to on-line learning this week, through our new class areas on the school website. Your child has a unique log-in to access these areas where you will find daily English and maths activities to complete and weekly projects to take part in. It also allows your child to submit completed work back to the teacher for feedback, and is a safe space for messaging and sharing. I hope you are finding it useful and easy to use. I have to say that I have cheekily asked for a log-in to be created for my own son who is in Y5 as I feel it is a much better system for home learning than what has been offered by his school. So if anyone in Autumn Class is wondering who the mystery 'Patrick' is, that's who!

Please remember that in no shape or form are you going to be able to re-create school at home. You don't have the time or the resources, and your child will not behave in the same way as they do at school. Please don't judge what you do or don't do as a failure. Anything that you can achieve that keeps their brain ticking over and provides a little structure and routine to their day is a great success, and please all celebrate it as such. From next week the work will go 'live' on the website the evening before so if anyone wants to look in advance they should be able to.

We are very aware that IT resources and equipment in everyone's homes, staff and families alike, is very different, and we are suddenly having to use and rely on it in ways that we never expected to have to for the children's education. We understand that some families like to complete the work on-line, some like to print it off and work on it in that way, some are reliant on working off the screen and onto plain paper. Whatever works for you at home is absolutely fine by us. Any way that you submit work back to us we will happily accept as well – on-line, as a photo or a scanned document. Please don't worry, just do the best you can. And please understand that teachers are working from home mostly and therefore may have limited options in terms of the formats of documents that they can create and post.

If you are having problems or questions about on-line learning or anything else, you can always contact your child's class teacher through the special areas on the website. But I also thought you might find it helpful to know how to contact us all via email as well during this time. So our addresses are:

Lindsey Hermon – lh@keevil.wilts.sch.uk

Tina Fish – tfh@keevil.wilts.sch.uk

Maria O'Brien – maria@acorneducationtrust.com

Emma Mortimer – em@keevil.wilts.sch.uk

Aaron McCaldon – am@keevil.wilts.sch.uk

Lizzie Robinson – er@keevil.wilts.sch.uk

Louisa Brown – lb@keevil.wilts.sch.uk

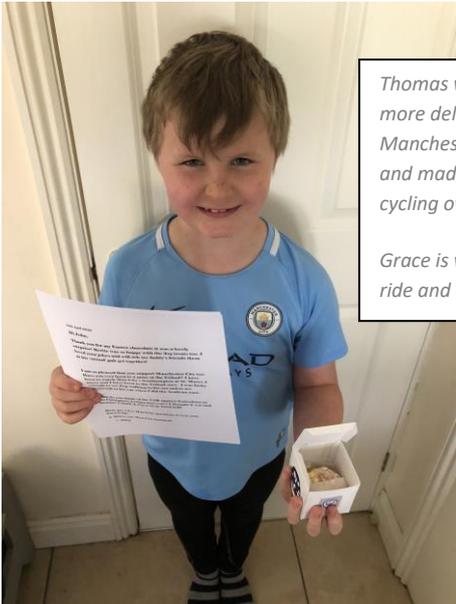
Mrs Draper in her role as our school ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) is in the process of creating a new Well Being page for the school website. This will provide you with ideas and resources for simple mindfulness activities and approaches you can take at home to help your whole family navigate this situation we are all currently in which is unlike anything any of us has ever know before. It is very understandable for children (and us) to be experiencing anxiety and heightened emotions at this time, and hopefully these activities may help you find a way through this. Mrs Draper will be adding new resources to the page on a weekly basis, and we will let you know when the page goes live.

Please remember that other members of our community have set up wonderful schemes to keep children busy and connected during these times. Katy Tovey-Bowes is co-ordinating the penpal scheme linking school families and isolated members of the local community. If you are interested in taking part in this, please contact Katy at katymorgan0811@gmail.com or via the FOKS Facebook group. Grace Dagleish has set up a home art club and is posting a weekly challenge for you to create at home.

If you would like to become part of this go to <https://mailchi.mp/a9b96efa6bba/creativemindstrowbridge> and subscribe to join the group. And see the pictures and quotes on the second page from children who are participating already to inspire you!

Please reach out to us if there is anything we can do for you at this time. And I hope that you all stay safe and well.

Best wishes,
Lindsey Hermon

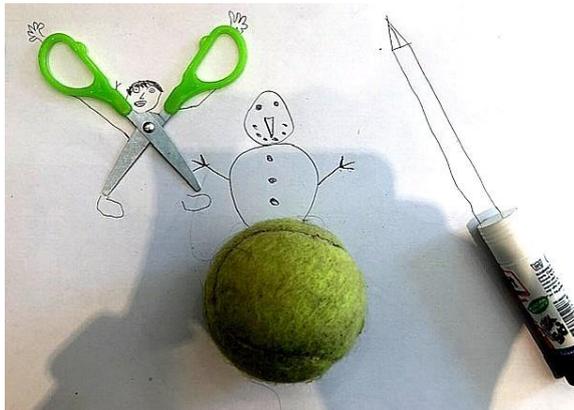
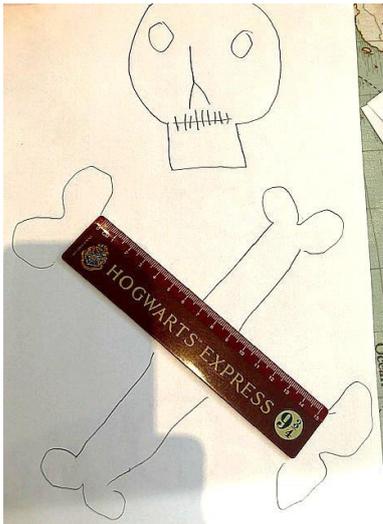
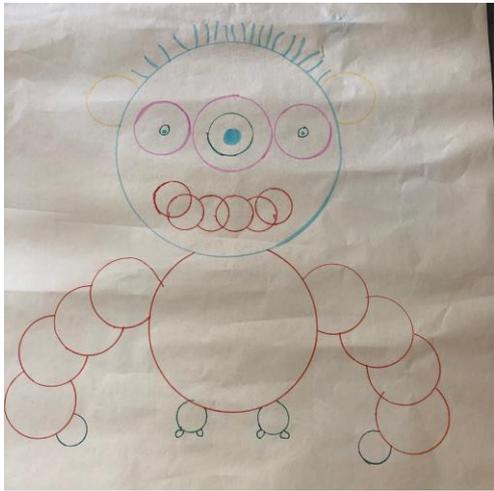


Thomas was most excited to have a pen pal in Keevil. He was even more delighted to find out that his pen pal John (who is 89!) supports Manchester City and loves jokes! We have written to him a few times and made him some biscuits which we delivered to his doorstep by cycling over to Keevil.

Grace is writing to John's wife Rose, who unbelievably, used to horse ride and own two horses! We couldn't have asked for better pen pals.



I have sent Amelia's first pen-pal package to Mrs Smythe, as I was able to hand deliver it was easier to pop down, however she caught me on the way out of the drive and we all introduced ourselves and had a lovely chat. She was absolutely blown away by the gesture and loves the idea of it all.



Keevil School's penpals and art projects