

Keeping in Touch – 1st May 2020

Dear all,

I hope you have all had a good week at home. We enter May and the April showers have finally arrived!

It is lovely to see and hear all the many things that you are doing at home currently. The teachers have been filling me in on all the work that is going on and the communication they have been having with children about this. And on the second page of the letter are a few pictures of both completed and work in action that you have sent to us. Please remember to celebrate all that you and your child are achieving at the moment. In these tough times it is vital that we recognise the positives and don't give ourselves too hard a time about what we are and aren't doing on any given day.

I also know that you are all finding other creative and inventive ways to fill your time and give yourself a feeling of purpose and productivity. Please do let me know of any things you and your family have been doing that you would like to share with the rest of the school community. This week I wanted to draw your attention to what Thomas Quinn from Summer Class has achieved. Last week he set himself the challenge of staying in his playroom for 24 hours and used this as a fundraising opportunity for the NHS. As I write this now, he has raised an amazing £370 already. I was so impressed at the motivation and resilience Thomas showed to achieve his challenge, and how he is living our ethos of always treating others as you would like to be treated, that I wanted to share it with you. And if you would like to donate to the NHS charities, you can do this through his fundraising page at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/thomas-quinn08> I look forward to hearing and sharing all the other things you have been up to at home, however big or small, over the coming weeks.

Many thanks to Miss Mortimer and Mrs O'Brien who have organised a Lockdown Inter House Competition of making a loo roll scarecrow, to replace the sadly cancelled FOKS Scarecrow Trail this year. You can find all the details at https://www.keevil.wilts.sch.uk/website/house_points_celebration/475116. The staff have got very competitive about this already, and are all endeavouring to see if they can beat the high standard set by Mrs Stainer!

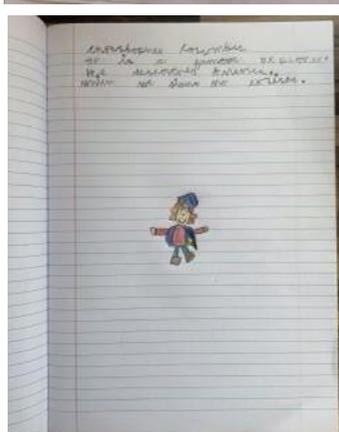
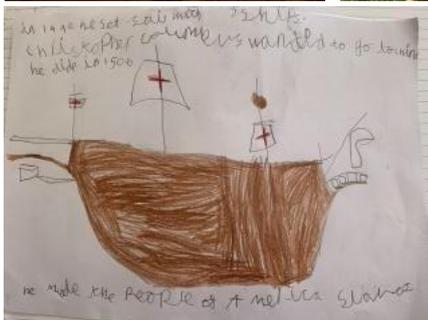
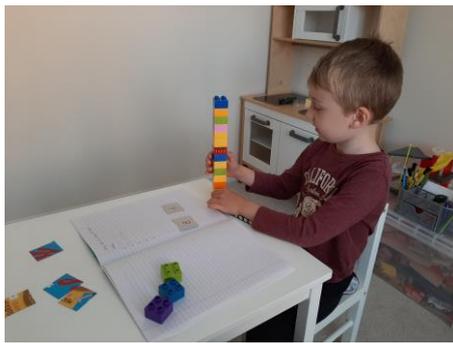
I mentioned last week that we are creating a new page on the school website to help support you at home with mindfulness and wellbeing activities to help us all through this stressful time. Many thanks to Mrs Draper and Mrs Watson for their hard work to achieve this, and it has now gone live. You will find it at: https://www.keevil.wilts.sch.uk/website/well_being/473750 Mrs Draper will be adding further activities on a weekly basis.

If you are anything like me at the moment you struggle on a daily basis to remember what day of the week it is, as everything somewhat merges into one. However, next Friday (8th May) is still technically a bank holiday. We will respect that in school and no daily work activities will be posted on the website that day, so you can all enjoy a 'holiday' free from any guilt that you should be doing any work!

I am being asked regularly at the moment when I think schools will re-open. I am afraid I have nothing definite to share with you. I suspect, and hope, that at some point between half term and the summer holidays schools will be asked to re-open in some shape or form. However, it is highly unlikely that this will just be a resumption of 'normal service'. I expect the Government will give us criteria to meet to ensure that social mixing is limited and schools are operated in the safest way possible. This will most probably mean that we will be limited to a certain number of children being on site every day, so we will need to operate a part-time timetable for each class/year group. Plus a number of other measures that we will need to put into place which could involve actions such as a different structure to the school day and staggered start and end times. It is very hard to know currently, all thoughts are best guesses from looking at other countries and from picking up hints and suggestions from experts and those in the know. It looks like the uncertainty and disruption will continue for a considerable time to come I'm afraid. But I will keep you up-dated with everything that I know as soon as I know it, and share all plans that we make with you at the first opportunity. Everyone at school is hugely appreciative of the understanding and support that we are receiving from you all currently through these difficult times. Many many thanks from us all.

I hope you all keep safe and well. Remember that I, and all the school staff, are here to help in any way we can, so please do reach out to us with any questions, queries, worries or concerns you may have.

Best wishes,
Lindsey Hermon



Keevil's home learning