



BEECH HILL NEWS



Friday 15th January 2021

As we come to the end of another challenging week, I would like to thank all the parents who have been working really hard this week to ensure their children engage with online learning. As a parent, I fully appreciate how difficult it is to motivate children when they are stuck at home. We have been so impressed with how staff, parents and pupils have pulled together to achieve a fantastic remote learning programme. The teachers have really enjoyed delivering zoom sessions. Please continue to support us with this and please make sure you don't have any background noise.

It is also great to see so many of our children still attending school as they meet the criteria for attendance. Unfortunately we are unable to accommodate any further pupils. The LA guidance still recommends parents keep their children home unless it is a last resort. Thank you also for your support during the inclement weather this week. Many staff could not get into school on Thursday and we were very much running on a skeleton team - many people endured a long walk home. The conditions this morning were treacherous and it was far safer to leave everyone at home today accessing remote learning. It was lovely to see the pictures on Seesaw of families enjoying the snow.

In addition, we have now distributed the DfE laptops to families who require support with this. Please be mindful that if you don't meet the criteria, we will not be able to provide you with one. You will have seen on the news that there is a shortage of laptops and we are currently trying to ensure the families that meet the free school meal or vulnerable criteria receive a laptop to support their child. We received clarification from the DfE on Wednesday that the Edenred voucher scheme for children entitled to free school meals who are not in school will be reinstated from next week. We will send further information on this as necessary.

Finally, as someone who has very recently experienced Coronavirus albeit in a mild form, I would like you all to take extra care and avoid mixing with others particularly as the new variant is so much more easily transmissible. There have been many losses in our community. Please all take care of yourselves and your families. With the vaccination programme in sight, we can see the light at the end of the tunnel and we must all stay safe so that we can get through this difficult time and look forward to the happier times ahead.

Take care and stay safe
Mrs Hussain



Farewell Miss Greene

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Miss Greene next week. She has been an integral part of our school office team for the last few years and will be greatly missed. Many of you will have spoken to her over phone when you have contacted school with any queries. We wish her all the best for the future and hope that she stays in touch. We would like to say a huge thank you for all Miss Greene's hard work, not least compiling the newsletter every week!

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Healthy School

Year 2

Year 2 have done some amazing learning this week at home and in school. This half term we are learning all about animals so to start this we have been reading a new book called *Chicken's Can't See in the Dark!* Children have shown a real understanding of the story through their answering of reading viper questions, sequencing and retelling.

Following on from this, we have begun learning all about life cycles, starting with the life cycle of a frog and butterfly. We didn't stop there - in art we made a wax resist portrait of a cow in the style of Sharon Cummings.

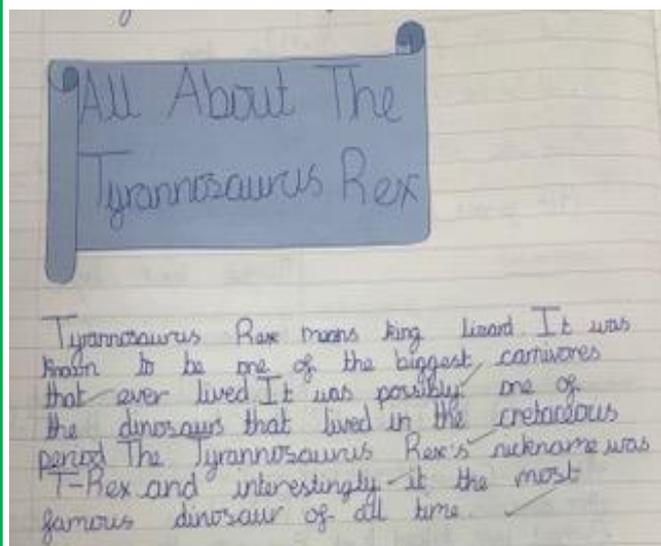
Take a look at some pieces below.



Year 3

Year 3 children have been working very hard at home and at school this week. They have embraced our blended learning approach in all subjects. Here is an example of the non-chronological reports they have started writing in their English sessions - All about a T-Rex!

We look forward to continuing these next week.



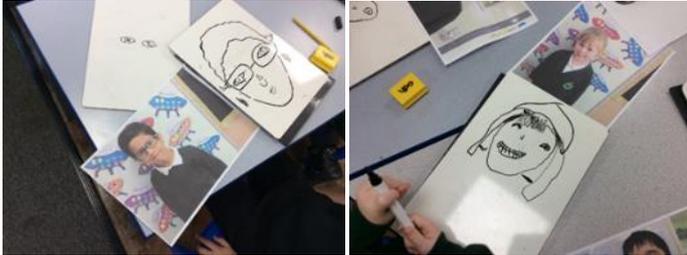
Zoom lesson rules for families

- Children must wear suitable clothing, as should anyone else in the household.
- Any computers used should be in appropriate areas, for example, not in bedrooms.
- Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background.
- Children and families must not unmute themselves unless they are asked to do so by their teacher.
- Children must not scribble on the screen.
- Children must not use the symbols (e.g. thumbs up) unless asked to do so by their teacher.
- Children and families must not take photos or videos of the live Zoom lessons as, if these were to be shared, this would be a criminal offence as we have not been granted permission for this to happen so it would be a data protection breach. Please bear in mind that some children have specifically not given permission for their images to be shared at all even within school. Children will be excluded from Zoom lessons if they do not follow these rules.
- The live classes will all be recorded by school so that if any issues were to arise, the video can be reviewed. Please contact your child's class teacher via Seesaw if you have any questions about Zoom lessons.

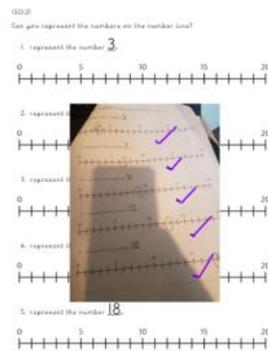
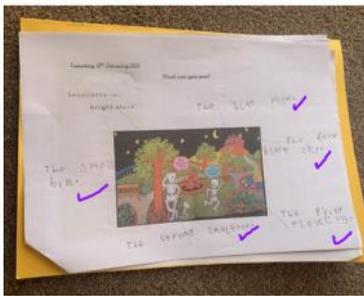


Year 1

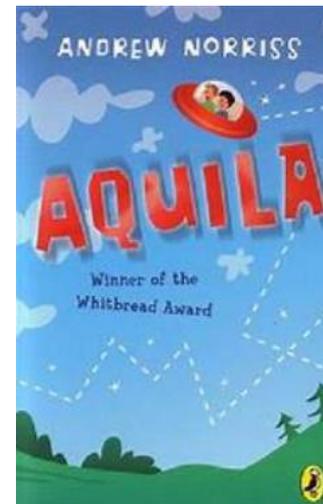
Well done to all the children in school this week - you have all worked extremely hard and settled in quickly to our new school routines. This week we have continued to learn about our new English book *Funnybones*. It has made us laugh so much! In art, we have been learning how to draw a self-portrait. Take a look at some of the work that we have produced.



All of the year 1 team are also extremely impressed with the children who have been learning remotely. Take a look at some of our magnificent work - keep it up!



Year 5



Year 5 have been working very hard at home and at school this week. Our focus this half term is space and the children have shown great enthusiasm for the subject. We have started reading a new book called *Aquila*, which focusses around two boys who accidentally find a spaceship on a school trip! The children were inspired by just the front cover and blurb, and came up with a variety of fascinating and detailed predictions of what might happen in the text.

Also, a huge shout-out to all the children working at home this week - the Year 5 team have been so impressed with their behaviour, attitude and enthusiasm!

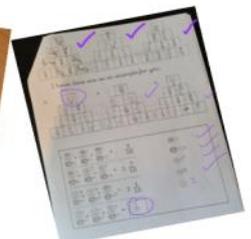
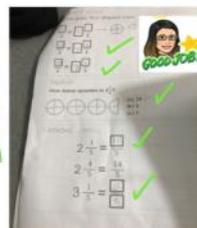


We would like to thank our amazing teaching and support assistants for their adaptability and determination over the last couple of weeks. They have been extremely busy preparing remote learning packs, making phone calls to our home learners, supporting children in school and upskilling themselves on Seesaw. You are all doing a wonderful job during these unprecedented times!

Year 6

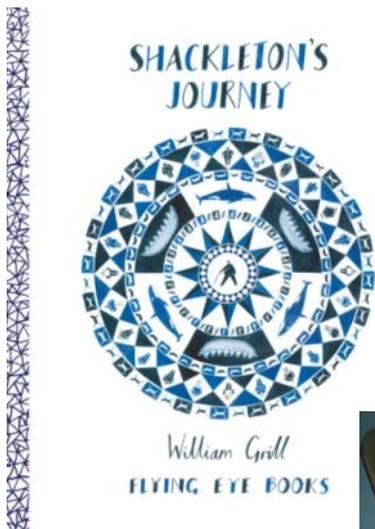
Our first week of remote learning has gone brilliantly! We are so impressed with the amount of children accessing our live lessons and then uploading their work on Seesaw for us to look at. We have covered some tricky fractions objectives in maths, learned about the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in English and looked at the layers of the earth in geography. Lots of children have even begun to code their own games in computing!

The children who have been in school have accessed the same learning as those who are at home and have been fantastic. Their behaviour and attitudes have been amazing! Well done!



Year 4

Miss Walker and Miss Gledhill are really proud of the Year 4 children this week. The children in school have been working hard and all our home learners have adapted to lessons on Zoom brilliantly! We have continued our class text, Shackleton's Journey, where the children have been writing a letter to apply for one of the jobs on board the ship. Who knew we had so many talented sailors in Year 4! Next week, Miss Gledhill will be teaching our home learners on Zoom - she is really excited to see you all!



Reception



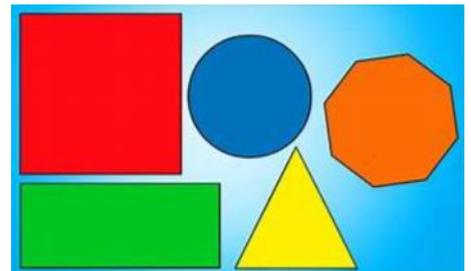
This week the Reception children have been listening to the story 'Handa's Surprise'. The children have been learning to name the animals and to write them down. In Maths we have been learning all about the number 6. We have been particularly focusing on quickly recognising how many dots on a dice face. In forest school the children enjoyed hunting for ice and learning how to describe it as the picture above shows.

Circle making. Have a go at home.



2 Year Olds

In 2-year-olds we are learning all about shapes around us. The children have been mark making with shape, going on a shape hunt and building models.



Our story is Dear Zoo. We have been learning about the different sizes of animals and containers they arrive in, using key words big and small.



Nursery

This week in nursery we have been reading the story of The Gingerbread Man. The children have enjoyed making gingerbread puppets and repeating key text from the story.



Kindly sponsored by



Thank you Reindeer Recruits!

Dear everyone at Beech Hill School,

Christmas is a special time for us all but your school has helped to sprinkle some extra Christmas magic at Overgate Hospice and for this we want to say thank you.

Your nursery has been a massive part of our Reindeer Run and thanks to the generosity of you and your staff, children and their families, you raised an amazing £2,041.58 to support Calderdale's only adult Hospice. That's incredible – so thank you.

Over 7,500 pupils from 35 other schools and nurseries took part in our biggest schools campaign ever! In total over £50,000 has been raised for the Hospice. This incredible success was thanks to your commitment to supporting Overgate and having fun in the process!

Your school is at the heart of your community, just as Overgate is at the heart of Calderdale. We know that you have faced unprecedented challenges this year as Covid-19 has had such a huge impact on schools. At the Hospice, it has also impacted us enormously. That's why we want to thank you for putting on your antlers and noses in support of people in our community who need our special help.

We've enclosed a special thank you certificate to display in school to celebrate your incredible achievement.

Thanks once again to all the wonderful Reindeer Recruits and we hope to see you again next year!

Best wishes,

Nikki

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The Overgate 
Reindeer Run

**Our Reindeer Run
raised an amazing:**

£2,041.58



Thank you to all our Reindeer Recruits
for taking part and raising money
for our local Hospice.

Kindly sponsored by



Registered Charity Number 511619



www.overgatehospice.org.uk