

Girton Glebe Newsletter

Issue 12

Friday 26 June 2020

School life has been incredibly different since the end of March and, over the last few weeks, we have been able to reopen our doors to pupils in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6.

The children that have returned are working within small teams operating staggered start/finish times, breaktimes and lunchtimes and remain with the same adults throughout the day.

Planning for a safe return took a significant amount of time and, in the current situation, we are deploying all available teaching and non-teaching staff to cater for the children we are able to offer provision to.

At the same time, many pupils remain at home, working on the Provision Menus that class teachers continue to provide. This work will remain in place for all pupils until the end of term.

Earlier this week, Gavin Williamson announced that all pupils would return to school in September. To date, there has been no further guidance on this and there is expected to be clearer direction coming from the DfE over the next few days.

We sincerely hope that we will be able to welcome back all pupils in September if it is safe to do so.

This newsletter will celebrate the work that has taken place in school over the last few weeks, shared by team leaders, alongside samples of work shared with us by children who are being homeschooled.

It is impossible to include all homeschool entries within this newsletter and we are currently creating an online gallery which we will post live on the school website.

Y2 – Y5 Story Sessions

We are currently putting final arrangements in place to host one-off story sessions for pupils in Years 2 – 5 for mid-July.

This will be a chance for the children who have not had the opportunity to return to school to spend time on school grounds with a small number of their classmates and their class teacher to share a story before the end of term.

There will obviously be restrictions around this gathering and we continue to work within the safety guidelines set by the DfE. Further information will follow next week.

Team 6A

It has been a very busy two weeks in school in our reduced-size Birch Class. Even though the number of children in class has diminished, their capacity for hard work most certainly has not. Children both inside and outside school have been powering their way through a variety of maths challenges, all of which they have mastered with aplomb. They have also been producing some fine (and sometimes hair-raising) autobiographies that I have loved reading, as well as some extraordinary pieces of art.

The children at school produced an amazing poem detailing their profound and thought-provoking responses to the Covid-19 crisis, which they performed beautifully on video for their parents. A copy of the poem (not the video, of course) was sent to acclaimed Welsh poet Patrick Jones, whose response was as follows:

Absolutely fantastic!

'Whispering kind words,

We were there'.

What an ending!

Superb and sensitively crafted.

Thank you so much for sharing

Ymlaen for our future poets.....

As ever, all Birch children have been both hard-working and delightful!

Team 6J

We have been working incredibly hard on a range of activities in our team. The children have all written their own entertaining autobiographies, using Roald Dahl's "Boy" as a model, and are beginning to write letters to their past selves.

As well as doing lots of Spellings, Reading, Maths, Art and PE, we have designed our own islands, become experts at the game of Countdown and are travelling the world learning the locations, flags and capital cities of different countries.

So far, we have mastered Europe and South America! As a team, we also wrote the following poem about our experiences of Lockdown, good and bad (extract and final line below):

Stuck inside for hours on end
Missing all our families and friends
Hair growing longer and longer
Boredom growing stronger and stronger
Queueing at shops for what feels like hours
To find there's no toilet roll or even flour
Two metres apart from everyone
Clearly, this is just no fun
Washing our hands until they blister
Having to teach phonics to my sister
Cancelling all our holidays
Hopefully something will end this phase
Parties and celebrations being postponed
Parents having to work from home
Dining table crowded with work
There just don't seem to be any perks
Back to school feels very weird
Everybody's grown a beard!

One thing Lockdown has definitely taught me:
Happiness spreads quicker than Covid-19

Teams 1B & 1D

Life in Oak has been different, slightly strange but a lot of fun. We have got used to staying at a distance from our friends, washing and sanitising often and eating our packed lunches in the classroom or outside as a picnic.

We all have a table 'buddy', a very small cuddly who sits on our table with us- we don't sit on the carpet at the moment. When we first arrived we were quite cold in the classroom because the teachers keep the windows and doors open as much as possible but we put on more jumpers and now the weather is warmer we are trying to spend as much time as possible doing work outside.

We have been following the same Provision Menu as all our friends who are still at home but we also get to raid Mr Smart's raspberry bushes for snack and have some forest school playtimes too.

This week, we drew obstacle courses on the playground as part of our maths work and made underwater sea creatures and clay tiles using shells to print into: that was fun.

We also used the woods to find phonic sounds and to compare the length of sticks. Inside, we made fruit kebabs

for snack as part of our Food topic and designed a healthy lunchbox, just like you did at home.

We have carried on writing and maths as usual but we do miss having the rest of our lovely friends with us and hope to see them again soon.



Ash Team

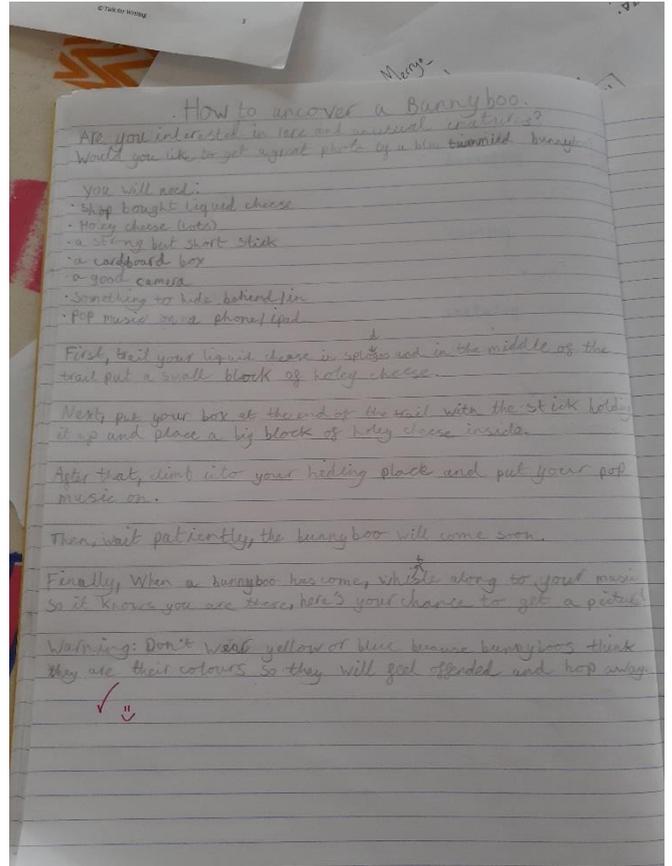
Ash Class have particularly enjoyed the under the sea topic (we also went a bit pirate mad)!

Peter told us about the amazing frogfish; they are very weird. We did some writing about them too. We also made an egg float by adding salt to the water; it was very exciting. We have done adding and taking away and made fish out of 2D shapes.

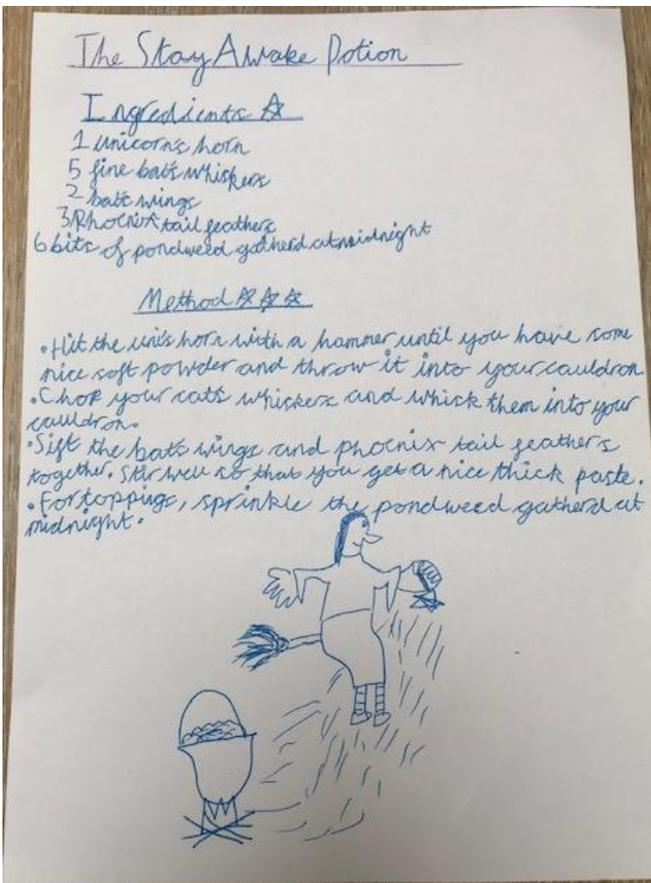
Milo's art:



Tess' writing:



Aarya's writing:



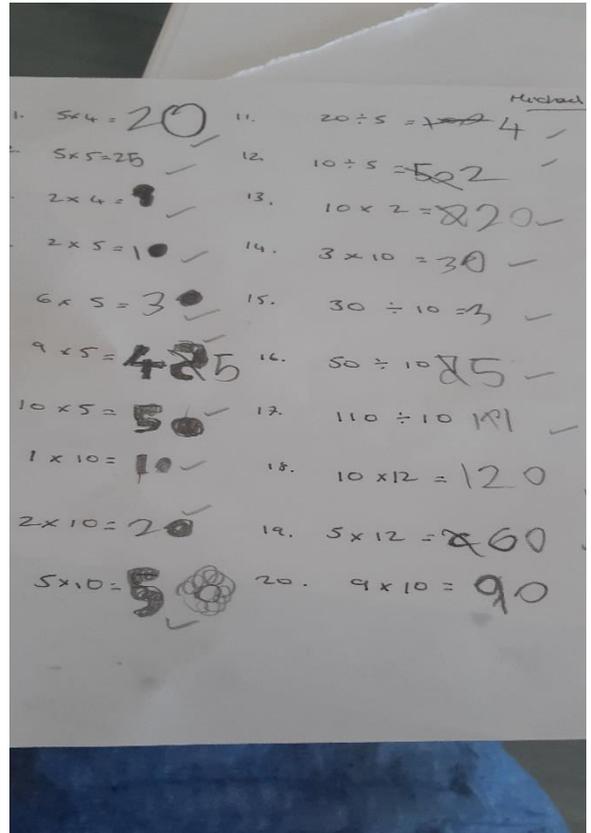
Livia and Rowena baking:



Mia's bird box:



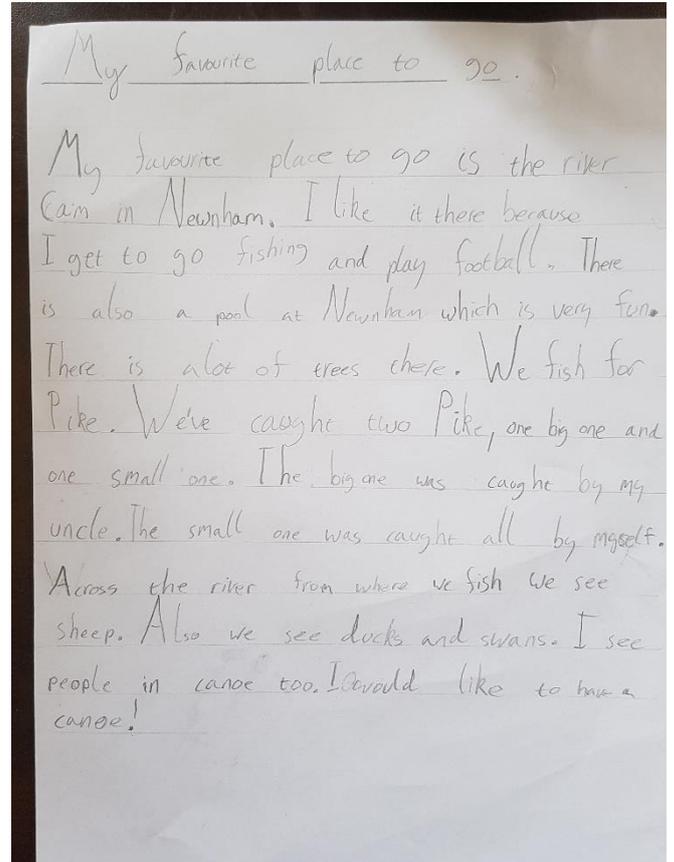
Michael's maths:



Alex's garlic bread:



Max's favourite place:



Thank you for your continued support,

Mr Andrew Simpson

Headteacher