



Issue No: 393  
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# Gracefield news

## TICK OFF WEEK ONE!

Well done everyone! You have completed week one of the Summer Term! I have been very impressed with the way that so many of you embraced the week - discovering that zoom is not another word for speed; learning about the ancient Egyptians; going on bug hunts and mastering Class Dojo technology! I would like to say a huge thank you for all the positive and kind comments received from parents as we have spoken to you and messaged this week. It has been hugely encouraging and uplifting to the staff and myself.

I am so proud of the way they have stepped up to make sure we do as much as we can to help our families in all their different situations. We operate a skeleton staff in school, supported by those working from home. The staff recognise that they put themselves and their families at greater risk, teaching in school, however their commitment to the children has taken priority; even when they have been worrying about their own family, some who have been very poorly. I am both humbled and proud.

My greatest admiration however, continues to go to those of our key worker parents working in extremely stressful conditions, and to their children who come to school each day, well aware of the situation their parents find themselves in. We are a Gracefield family and your courage and resilience is commended by us all with thanks for your service.

Fortunately, there are always some lighter moments in any crisis and I hope you enjoy seeing some of the staff stories in 'life in lock down' on page 2.

Keep going everyone. Stay home, stay safe and above all, be kind! Keep posting your photos and stories. We all love seeing what you are doing!

Mr Gunter  
Headteacher

## LOVELY LADYBIRDS

Reception have been reading the story The Bad Tempered Ladybird and lots of lovely ladybird items appeared on Class Dojo! We loved the masks, costumes and pictures Reception!



## COMPUTER RAINBOWS

KS1 have been helping to spread hope and positivity by creating a rainbow using Paint on the computer. We love seeing the bright colours and techniques in school and will print them out to add to our fantastic school window display!

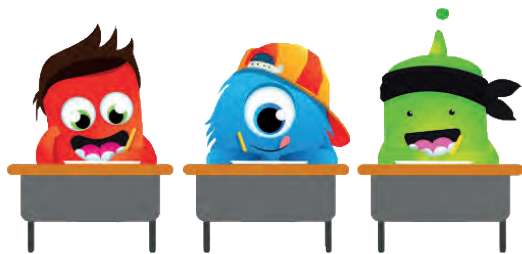


## EXTRA TERRARIUM

Mrs Plant was inspired by Darcy and Lola to create her own terrarium after she saw their version on Class Dojo. Nice work ladies!







# CLASS DOJO GALLERY

This week's KS2 art foundation subject work involved drawing a self portrait and there have been some great images uploaded to Class Dojo this week. Here's a gallery of some of them. See if you can guess who's who!



We'll include more next week!



## LIFE IN LOCK DOWN

We've enjoyed seeing all the activities the children have posted on Class Dojo during lock down and we thought they might like to see what the staff have been doing during life in lock down!



Lock down is driving a normally sporty Mr Kerry literally up the wall! To make up for not being able to get out and about, he built a climbing wall in his garage! Don't try this at home children!



No, it's not a new style face mask, this is Mr Bird dying wool at home! He is getting ready with Mrs Bird to take part in a Virtual Wool Festival this weekend. If parents want to see what that means you can follow [#virtualwonderwool](#) on Instagram and Facebook.

Mrs Campbell stays calm during lock down by walking her dogs Freddie and Jimmy in the countryside near her home. A great way to get your daily exercise Mrs Campbell!



Mrs Morgan has become a You-tuber! She is telling Sunday School stories from home and you can find the link on Class Dojo today!



# WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER

## We are listening!

In response to some requests we have received from parents, we have made some tweaks to our Home Learning provision. I have listed below some of the small changes we will be making and answers to some of the common questions I have received in our first week. I greatly appreciate your patience and understanding that this is a new system for us all, and therefore naturally there will be adjustments we need to make over time to ensure the provision is as supportive as possible to our children, parents and teachers.

## Changes and Improvements

- We have changed some of the organisation of the Home Learning folders. We have made it clearer which activities are for specific days of the week in English and Maths.
- As much as possible, we will be keeping to the same timetable for Zoom meetings, to allow parents to plan their own work arrangements around these contact calls.
- This week we have provided access to eBooks to continue to support children's reading at home.
- Where possible, we will be uploading editable version of worksheets, which can be completed using Microsoft Word. Not all worksheets will be available in this format, but we will endeavour to provide them where we can. Please remember worksheets do not always need to be printed, and answers can be written in exercise books or on paper.
- Where possible, we will also be uploading PDF versions of PowerPoints to help some parents who have been unable to access PowerPoint.

## Questions and Technical Issues

Many parents have requested new codes for access to Portfolio. If at any point you find yourself unable to access Portfolio, then please do send me a message on Class Dojo, where I can send you a new code or provide alternative ways to access the Portfolio.

Some parents have asked for the best method of uploading work to the Portfolio. At the moment, it is only possible to upload one document at a time. This can be done by attaching the file directly, or as many of our parents have done, taking a photo of the work to upload. Class teachers are not expecting every piece of work to be uploaded. The decision remains with parents as to how much they wish to upload. Teachers will be aiming to give detailed feedback on at least one piece of English, two pieces of Maths and two Foundation subject activities each week.

On a very small number of occasions, when clicking on the link to the Home Learning folders, parents are being requested to login with a Microsoft account. This should not be necessary as the system was designed so anyone can access it without having to register/login to any account. As far as I am aware this is a technical issue with Microsoft, whom I have contacted to request a solution. My suggestion at the moment would be to ensure any Microsoft accounts registered with the computer are logged out of and then close all browsers and load it again. For the small number of parents this has affected, if you continue to be unable to access the folders then please do contact me on Class Dojo to discuss other arrangements.

I have also had some questions regarding the worksheets children need to complete. For many of the Twinkl worksheets, they come in differentiated packs, with sheets marked with one star for the easiest, two stars for the middle and three stars for the hardest. Children do not necessarily need to complete each sheet, but may often choose where to start based on their confidence levels. Children may feel like completing the two star sheet first, then challenging themselves by trying the three star sheet. If you are unsure which version your child should be working on, then please ask their class teacher.

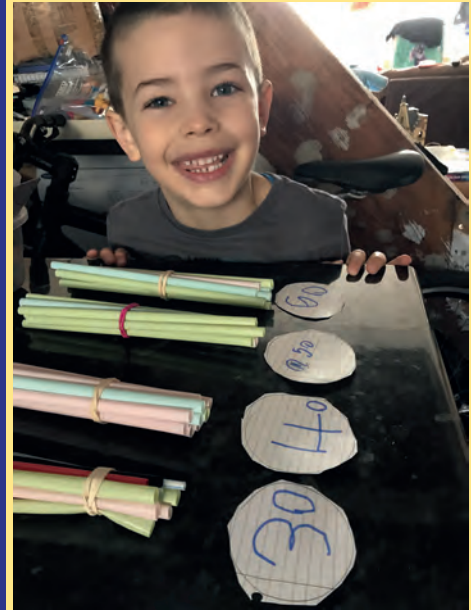
Please remember that I am available to contact throughout school hours to provide any support needed. The majority of my time in school over the last week has been in a new role as IT Support!

I have greatly appreciated the many positive comments I have received from parents in response to our Home Learning package. It has been an extraordinary team effort from our staff who have put countless hours into creating this curriculum for our pupils. It has been reassuring to see how many of our parents have dived head first into this new way of learning!

**Mr Gunter**

# MATHS ROUND UP

Year 1 have been using sticks and straws to count in 10s, both in school and at home.





# KEEP MOVING WITH JOE WICKS!

I hope as many of you as possible are joining in with the Whole School Exercise timetabled. We are all doing the Joe Wicks exercise classes in school and have had some fun dressing up and joining in!

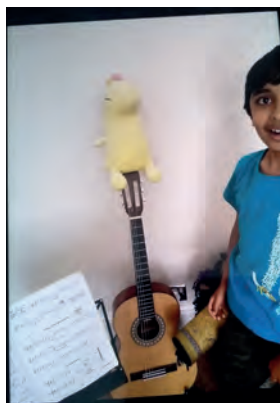


If you are doing the Joe Wicks exercises, or finding other ways to keep yourself moving while you are away from school, let us know! We can include your photos in the Newsletter.



# PREPOSITIONS

Year 3 have been having some fun with prepositions in their English work, using soft toys to explain words such as beside, on and under.



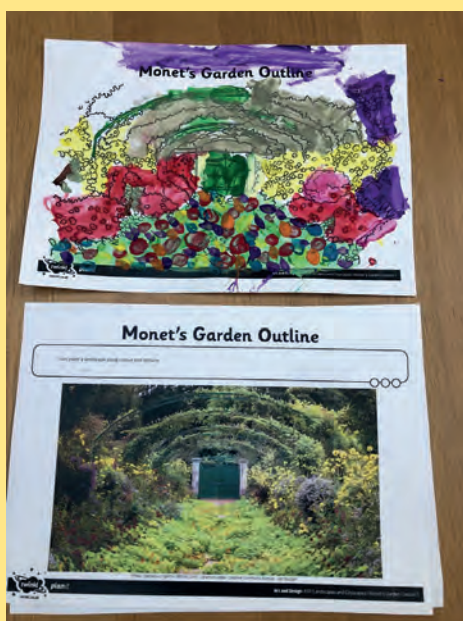
# WHAT DAY IS IT?



Great work from Reception who have been practising the days of the week.

# MARVELLOUS MONET

KS1 have been studying the work of the famous artist Monet and have had a go at some artwork using his style of painting. Great work Year 2! It's lovely to see all the creative ways you have come up with to do your art projects.



This week's birthdays are:

Shola - 24th April

Tarang - 25th April

Mrs Yemm - 22nd April