

# Gracefield news

Issue No: 394  
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## WINNING TECHNOLOGY

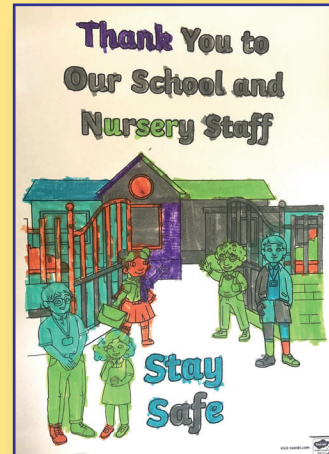
I want to say a huge thank you and well done to all our parents who have managed to navigate the technological minefield that has introduced you to the world of Zoom, Dojos, PDFs and PowerPoints. I know that for many of you it has been a challenge but I've been really impressed by your perseverance.

Great work from you too children! I have so enjoyed seeing all of your Portfolio pictures, work, stories, drawings and videos. Keep posting them so that your teachers can mark your work and give you feedback. It might not be on the same day, as sometimes they are teaching in school or planning, but everything is looked at by us.

Well done children, parents and staff. You are all Stars of the Week!



## THANK YOU!



It was lovely to see this picture from Dakari posted onto Class Dojo. If that didn't make us emotional enough, it was accompanied by a very kind message of thanks to all the staff.

We are all very grateful for your words and picture Dakari and family.

## MAKING MUSIC

I hope that you have all been enjoying the Charanga music lessons. It's been great to see all the creative ways children have been coming up with to practise. We've also really liked watching the videos posted onto Class Dojo of music sessions. We even enjoyed some live music from Khushi on Year 3's Class Call.



## BOOK REVIEW

**The Beast of Buckingham Palace**  
Book Review by Elliot, Year 6



**Author:**  
David Walliams

**Main Characters:**

Alfred- The Prince  
Alfred's Mum-  
The Queen  
Alfred's Dad-  
The King  
The Lord Protector

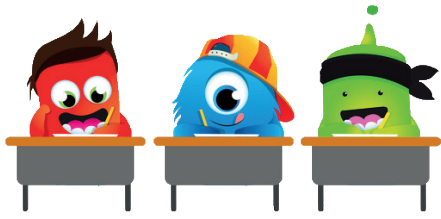
**The Plot:**

The book is set in the future, where there are laser guns and the world is a very different, dark place. There is no police force or government or soldiers. There are only the royal guards who have laser guns. The king rules everything and the Lord protector rules him

Alfred has never known anywhere else, other than the palace and no one has seen the sun for fifty years. Alfred likes to read a lot and use his imagination.

Alfred is a sickly boy, whose grandmother disappeared when he was little. Then his mum gets kidnapped and put in the tower. There are lots of twists and turns I would recommend this to ages 8-12 years.

**Star Rating: \*\*\*\***



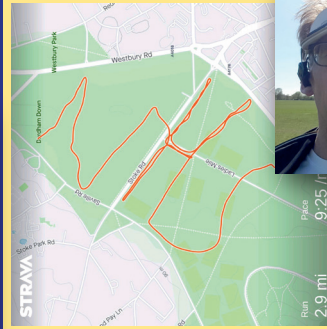
# CLASS DOJO GALLERY

More KS2 art self portrait work this week.



# LIFE IN LOCK DOWN

Another week in lockdown and the staff are still finding new ways to manage life outside of school.



Mr Kerry has been running around the Downs in Bristol. He recorded his route and spelt the word 'NHS', running around three miles.

We all know that there has been a national shortage of pasta. Miss Rawlinson has found a way round the problem and has been showing us her impressive pasta making skills! Here she is producing her own lasagne sheets using a pasta maker before baking a very tasty lasagne. Perfect lockdown food Miss Rawlinson!



Mr Gunter has spent most of the past six weeks in school but he still goes for a daily walk with Mrs Gunter, which we are sure helps her stay sane. They are expecting their first baby in June and because of the lockdown guidelines Mrs Gunter has now been isolated for 46 days!

# WALK TO THE MOON

Well done Elliot for competing in the Scout's Bear Grylls indoor hike to the moon in aid of the recent BBC1 'Big Night In' charity extravaganza. Each scout had to hike a mile at home and Elliot used a running machine to join his fellow Scouts, who collectively walked more than 240,000 miles (the distance to the Moon). They raised hundreds of thousands of pounds for the event.



**WELL DONE ELLIOT!**



More baking from the staff. This time it's Mrs Yemm who has been making chocolate chip cookies with her daughter.



# WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER

## We are listening!

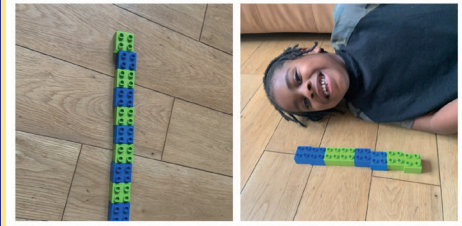
I hope that you have found the tweaks we made to our Home Learning provision helpful this week. Please remember that I am available to contact throughout school hours to provide any support needed. We really don't mind how often you get in touch - we are here to help!

Parents may be interested to understand why we came up with the format of the Home Learning Plan, rather than 'live learning'. We wanted to use a platform that could be accessed by everyone in one format or another and we knew that everyone has different access to technology at home. In addition, we receive guidance from the government's advisory bodies which very early on stated that primary schools should 'not live-stream lessons nor should teachers engage in face to face video calls'. Class Dojo gives the teachers the opportunity to communicate with the children without breaking these guidelines. Our Zoom sessions always have two members of staff present to comply with safeguarding, which is important for everyone. I am really pleased with how quickly the children have adapted. There are teething problems which we try to fix as soon as possible when they arise and we are continuously helping people out with technical queries, so please do ask if you are stuck.

Mr Gunter

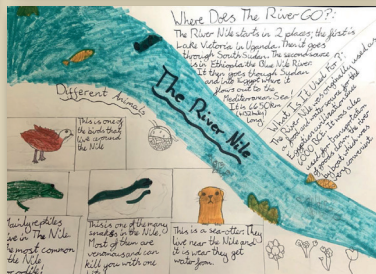
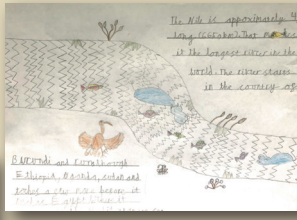
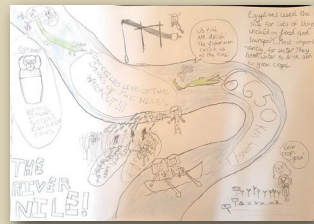
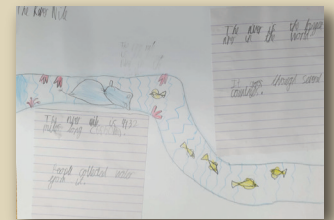
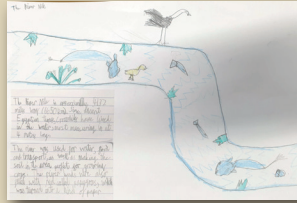
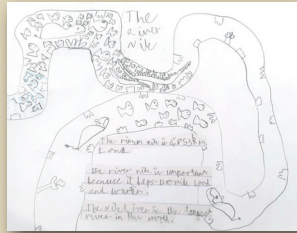
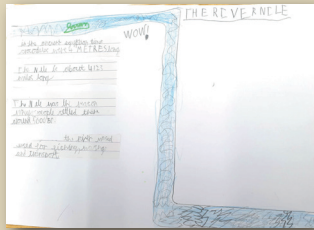
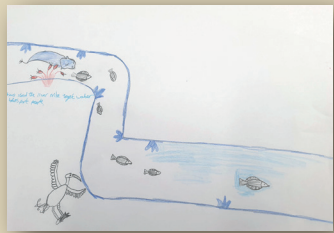
# REPEAT AFTER ME

Reception have been learning about repeating patterns and found some novel everyday items to practise with.



# THE NILE GALLERY

KS2 have been learning about Ancient Egypt and have been producing some fantastic posters all about the River Nile.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

This week's birthdays are:

- Benji - 4th May
- Khaya - 4th May
- Bongiwe - 6th May
- Devam - 7th May
- Tarang - 25th April
- Miss Smart - 8th May



# Ramadan

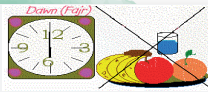
Several of our families are fasting for the Muslim festival of Ramadan.

We asked some of the children to write about their experience of Ramadan at this time.



Ramadan is the fourth of the 'five pillars' of Islam, the five requirements of being a Muslim. Ramadan is marked by a fast, which lasts for the ninth month of the lunar year. It marks the time when Muslims believe their holy book, the Quran, was revealed to them by the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Wael, Amin and Rayan



It is during this month that Muslims fast. They are not allowed to eat or drink during daylight hours. Muslims are allowed to eat when the sun goes down and often Muslims will break the fast by eating a few dates and drinking water before they have a large family meal together.



It is not easy to fast, so young children, elderly people and people who are sick don't have to, until they are older or are feeling stronger. Everyone else tries to make the effort.



Feeling hungry and thirsty helps Muslims to understand what it is like for people in the world who do not have enough to eat or drink all the time. They set aside money to give to the poor.

I am breaking fast with my mummy and daddy and I am looking forward to Eid to get my presents.



Ramadan is an especially spiritual month. Muslims attend the mosque more frequently and read the Quran more often than usual. Muslims make a special effort to act in the way Allah wants them to during this month. They try to create time to reflect on the way they should lead their lives.



When Ramadan ends it is celebrated for three days in a holiday called Eid-El-Fitr (the Feast of Fast Breaking). Food is donated to the poor. This is called Zakat Al Fitr which is the third pillar of Islam. Friends and family gather to pray together and for large meals and gifts are exchanged.



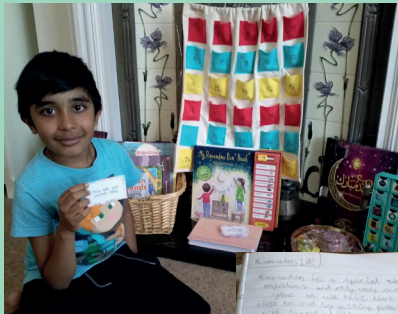
Dear God  
Thank you for all that you give to us. May we find time in our busy lives to be grateful for them and to remember those who don't have as much as we do.  
Amin

The daily end of the fasting, at the sunset, is also a time where families come together to have a meal. With the lockdown, the number is very short this year!



## Zakariya

The day before Ramadan we wait to hear if the moon has been sighted, it's exciting because it's only 1 month in the year we have to fast. I enjoy getting up in the morning to eat Suhur at 3 o'clock, I feel exhausted but excited at the same time. I go through the day not eating or drinking. I keep asking my mummy how much time is left for sunset. That is the best time of the day because mummy prepares lots of my favourite food, like fruit wraps and dates. Fasting is hard but I enjoy doing it.



Ramadan is a special time for Muslims and only comes once a year. We use this

time to get close to God by fasting from sunrise till sunset. Children don't have to fast or anyone who is ill. I tried to fast, it has been very hard but I did it!!! Not eating or drinking for 16 hours makes us grateful for our food. Fasting in lockdown is hard because we can't see our family but I am looking forward to the yummy food and presents on Eid. Here is a picture of my Ramadan calendar. It has a treat and good deed on every day of Ramadan. I hope you all had a good Ramadan. May God (Allah) bless you all.

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## Zaynab



Ramadan is all about fasting and reading the Quran. We wake early, before sunrise to eat and then we stop eating for the whole day. When the sunsets we can open our fast, and eat until sunrise. Then it starts all over again and it keeps going until Ramadan stops, which is 29 or 30 days. After Ramadan ends it is EID. Eid is our celebration like Christmas or Easter. We go to our families houses and celebrate by giving each other presents and then we eat and then everybody goes home and we clean up then we go home. That is all about Eid and Ramadan!



# Ramadan

# TERRIBLE CREATURES

KS1 have been looking at the book *The Gruffalo* and have created their own terrible creatures. Fantastic creatures KS1! We love their unusual features!



# POSITIONAL LANGUAGE

More fun with positional language this week!



# ZOOMING SKILLS

We've really enjoyed all the creative Zoom Class Calls this week. A particular highlight was Year 6 wearing hats, including Mr Bird donning a large flowery number! Some of our children have also been very creative. We were impressed by Holly's presentation entitled 'Why my dad should let me have a cat'. We hope your presentation worked Holly!

When you see my Dad, tell him to let me have a cat! 😊



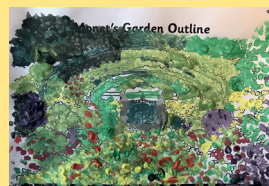
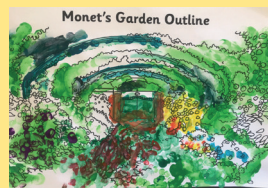
Thank you for listening!

# MARVELLOUS MONET

The children in school worked on their Monet art lesson last week. It was very messy! They produced some fabulous pictures and had lots of fun in the process.



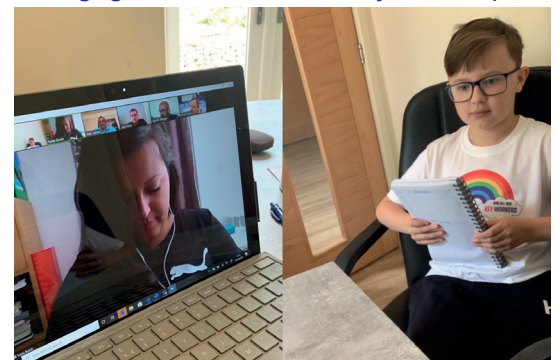
It's always good to see the different ways everyone at home is working. When you are completing a Monet masterpiece, what better place to work than the garden!



Year 3's Time to Talk Zoom also included this impressive Star Wars Lego set.

It must have taken a long time to build Michael!

Harvey-Jon went one step further by creating and hosting his own Zoom quiz for his mum's national managers. He wanted to give mum's team a little boost at their weekly meeting and we hear he was super confident and kept them all engaged. Well done Harvey-Jon. Top work!



# FANTASTIC MR FOX

Ruth has some interesting news to share ...

Something was digging in our garden and we didn't know whether it was a fox or a badger but when they were leaving dead rats, vegetables and bones in the garden it became more annoying as well as the holes which we were planning to block.

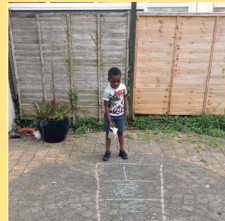
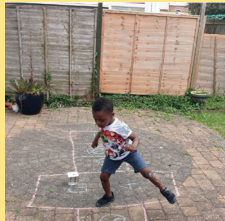
Then my Dad and I put out a wildlife camera and light so we can see them when it's dark. That's when we saw all five fox cubs and mother and father fox which made us want to keep the holes in the garden.

We move the camera every day and are excited at breakfast to see what they have been doing in the night.



## CREATIVE MATHS WITH RECEPTION

Reception children made their own colourful dice from lots of different materials and then used them to play games. Great work Reception!



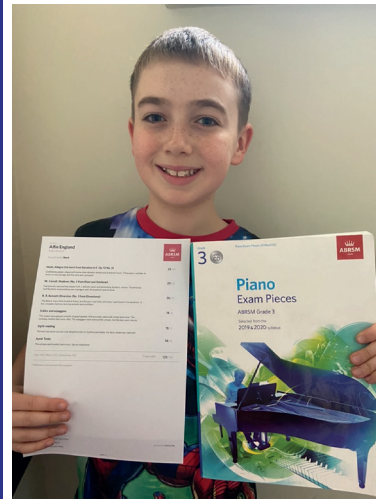
## WALK LIKE AN EGYPTIAN

PE with Joe Wicks .... Egyptian style!



## WELL DONE ALFIE!

Huge congratulations to Alfie for passing his Grade 3 piano exam with a merit.



Alfie had been working really hard on practising for the exam and just managed to be able to take it before all the examinations were postponed due to the lockdown. Well done under difficult circumstances Alfie!

## A PRAYER FOR GRACEFIELD FROM MRS MORGAN

Although these are difficult times children, and we can't all be together, we can still pray and ask God to be with us and help us. Here is our Gracefield Prayer which has been changed to help us while we are apart.



### THE GRACEFIELD PRAYER

Dear Father,  
 We thank you for all the blessings we have, our health, our homes, our friends. Please help us, especially when we can't be at school together. Look after our world and help everyone who is affected by the virus, especially those who are working with all the sick people. Please help us to love one another and be kind always. Thank you that we can talk to you and share our worries.  
 Amen