



Issue No: 396  
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# Gracefield news

## SEEDS OF CHANGE

This week the government announced plans to move the country slowly but surely back towards some kind of normality following the countrywide lockdown as a result of the COVID-19 epidemic. One of the areas affecting us are plans for a phased re-opening of schools, beginning at the earliest from 1st June.

We are gradually looking through the government's extensive proposals and beginning preparations and planning to see how these would be achievable at Gracefield. There are many steps we need to take and as soon as we are in a position to re-open safely for our children, we will do so. We will keep you informed as much as possible as plans progress.

Thank you to everyone who took part at home and at school in our VE Day commemoration. I was very pleased with the way everything unfolded and so impressed with all the efforts made by the children to bake cakes, make bunting and honour the day.

Despite the lockdown, I think we paid homage to those brave citizens who lived through the war, even with our Zoom singing rendition of We'll Meet Again! You can see pictures of the event on page 6 of the Newsletter. I hope you enjoyed the celebration as much as we did!

**Mr Gunter**  
Headteacher

## SOCIALLY DISTANCED TOGETHER!

Keeping the children apart can be difficult at times! We have been practising social distancing games in school and the children really enjoyed this one from Mr Gunter using the parachute.



Mr Kerry has been teaching KS2 how to bowl over-arm with a cricket ball worn round the wrist which saves a lot of chasing around!



## OFF EXPLORING

KS1 have been learning about Captain Scott's journey to the Antarctic in history and finding out all about his experiences on the way.



What better way of discovering the challenges he faced than doing some exploring in the garden yourself?! We hope you didn't have to do the whole 1,800 mile journey to get the full experience!

## WEIGHING IN

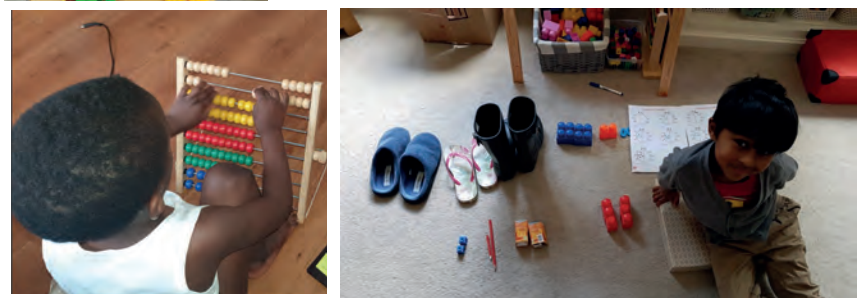
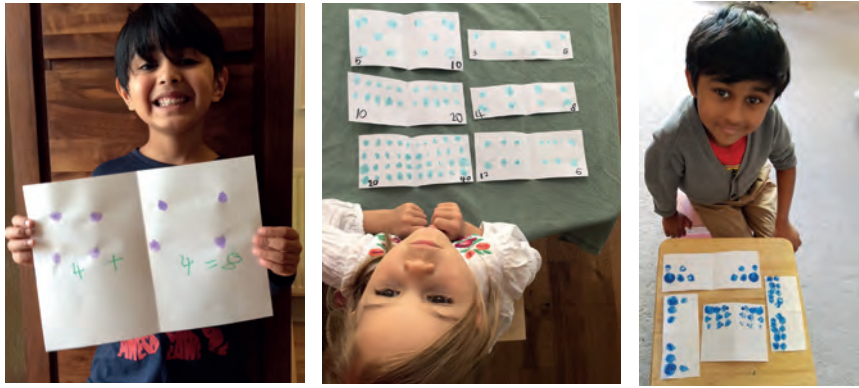


Year 3 have been measuring mass in kilograms and grams. Pap Pap the tortoise was just one of the household items being weighed this week. We're surprised he stayed still long enough to be weighed!

**DARCY AND LOLA ARE JUST ABOUT AT THE HALF WAY MARK IN THEIR CHALLENGE TO RUN 40 MILES DURING THE MONTH OF MAY. THEY HAVE RUN 21 MILES SO FAR. KEEP GOING GIRLS!**

# DOUBLING AND HALVING

Reception have been learning all about doubling and halving and by the looks of things have been doing it in lots of different and creative ways.



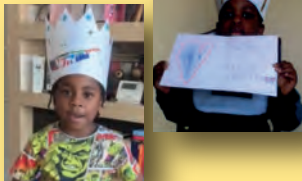
# CREATIVE MATHS



We love seeing all the creative ways that the children use to practise their maths skills at home. Everyday objects and favourite toys can be used for a whole host of maths tasks. Well done parents!

# LIFE IN LOCK DOWN

Miss Smart celebrated her birthday last Sunday. She was treated to afternoon tea and lots of party trimmings. Reception arranged a lovely surprise for Miss Smart with some videos they had made to wish her happy birthday.



Mrs Tanner has been busy gathering materials to put in the new bug hotel that Mr Tanner has made for the Gracefield garden. The children in school will be filling the house with all the bug-friendly material this week.

Mrs Plant has been learning to play the clarinet! She practises every night for half an hour and has lessons from her partner Paul who is an accomplished musician. Great new skill to learn in lockdown Mrs Plant!



Miss Jones has been taking inspiration from the children and started painting outside making the most of the lovely weather and view!

Mr Ball joined in with Star Wars day by dressing up as Darth Vader and entertaining the local community alongside some superhero teachers from his daughter's school! May the fourth be with you too Mr Ball!





# EGYPTIAN GALLERY



Lots of creative ideas from KS2 history this week. Great work children. Keep sending in all your pictures so that we can showcase them in the gallery.



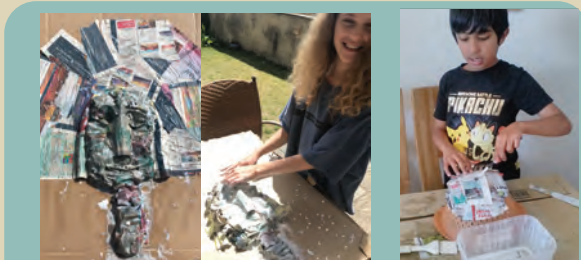
These are models of canopic jars. The Egyptians used them to store a dead body's stomach, intestines, lungs, and liver. They believed they would be needed in the afterlife.



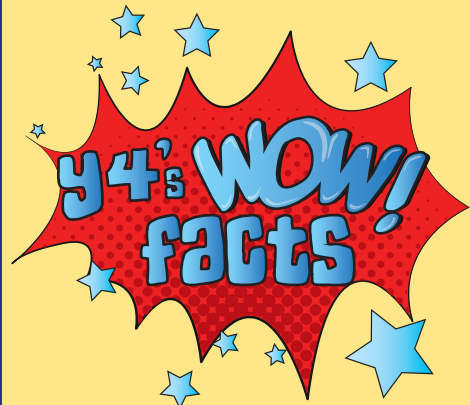
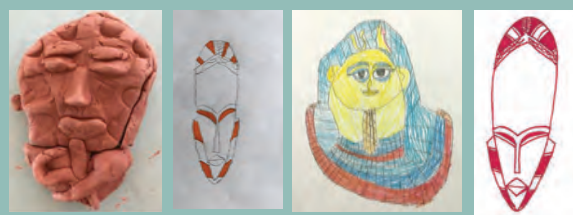
Well done Edward for making this fantastic shaduf. The shaduf was used in ancient Egypt to lift water from one

place to another to irrigate crops. Great model work everyone!

The children at home and in school have been making sarcophagus models. We're very impressed by the neatness of the work.



More masks this week. We are looking forward to seeing these papier-mâché masks when they are finished! The children in school also used a mixture of plaster of Paris and papier-mâché to create their 3d masks.



**THIS WEEK'S YEAR 4 WOW FACTS ARE ALL ABOUT ANCIENT EGYPT ...**

The Egyptians used mouldy bread to help with infections!

**Bailey WOW!**

**WOW!** It was thought that the Sphinx at Giza was built in 2500BC, however recent studies have shown it may well be as old as 10,000 years!!!! When it was first built it was painted in brilliant colours and 25ft under the paws there are two chambers that have never been opened.

**Daniel**

The largest pyramid of Pharaoh Khufu (2589-2566 BCE) took about 20 years to build and was made from over two million limestone blocks.



**Caleb**

**WOW!** More than 14,000 gods and goddesses were worshipped by the Egyptians in ancient times.

**Edward**

The Nile crocodile is the second-largest reptile in the world. It eats animals as big as giraffes and elephants! The ancient Egyptians believed that the god of the Nile, called Sobek, was a crocodile who even took a bite out of Osiris, the king of the gods.



**Zaynab**

**WOW!** The oldest dress is found in Egypt aged almost 5000 years.

**Edward**

Cleopatra was not Egyptian because she was actually born in Alexandria but the city in Greece!



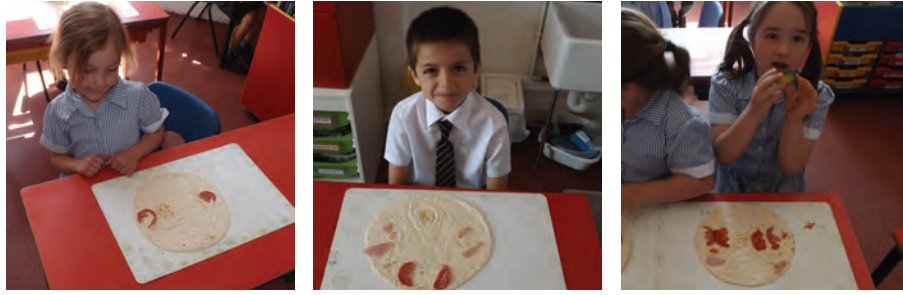
**Ruth**

(Cleopatra was born in Alexandria, Egypt, but her ancestors were Greek. - Mrs Plant.)

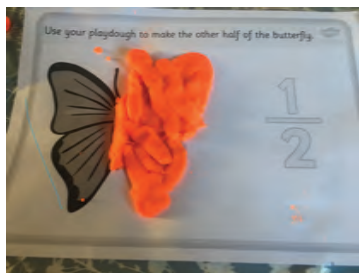
**Keep those WOW facts coming Year 4. We love them!**

# PERFECT SYMMETRY

KS I have been looking at fractions and symmetry and Mr Ball created these symmetrical wraps with the children in school, which turned out to be very tasty!



More KS I doubling and halving using different materials. The children really enjoyed making the playdough in school and it looks like just as much fun was had at home!



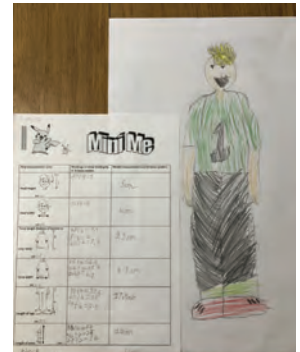
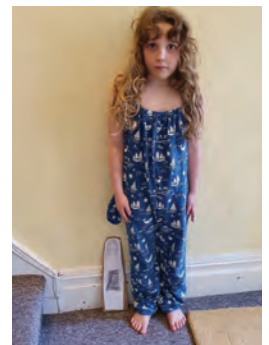
# REVOLTING RECIPES



More revolting sandwiches from KS I who have been listening to the story of Sam's Sandwich by David Pelham. Here's another one from Liz which we hope you never have the misfortune to try! Nice mix of sprinkles and snails Liz!

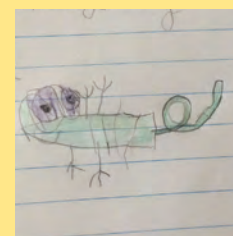
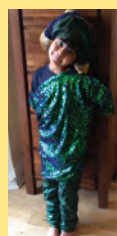
# INTRODUCING MINI ME

Year 3 have been looking at scaling and have created some 'mini me' versions of themselves.



# SUPER POWERS

Reception have been reading the story Superworm by Julia Donaldson. They have chosen which animal they would be and which superpower they would have.



# SUPER FRUIT SMOOTHIES

Mr Gunter made super fruit smoothies during club. The children chose their combination of fruits and everyone enjoyed them!



# LOCKDOWN LIFE EXPERIENCES

We asked Year 5 to tell us about their experiences in lockdown. Here is their report.

By Year 5



**I support Everton! It helps to have a green at the front of my house so I can practice football and have some fun!**



The lockdown has its positive side. I have the chance to spend quality time with my parents and my brothers. I am enjoying my current daily routine. I wake up in the morning and I do some exercise with my older brother. We then both start our work and twice a week I meet my classmates and teachers on Zoom. We usually finish around 3pm and we go on Skype to do the Quran and Arabic learning. After the long hours of home learning, we finally get our enjoyment time and play on

PlayStation 4. Recently my parents got me the latest FIFA 20.



**Chelsea vs Arsenal! What a game with the London's derby. Put your prediction!**

I like playing a chess game with my brother Rayan and we teach Amin. It is a tough competition. We keep playing until it is the time to break our short fasting. After the meal, we sometimes have a home cinema with a movie from Disneyplus or Netflix, subject of the approval of our parents.

The latest movie we watch is Marvel's Endgame. I am looking forward to the Eid celebration and the quality time in the park.

Eastville Park is my favourite one. So that is my day!!!!!!



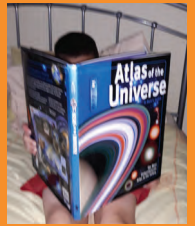
**Something I like to do during quarantine is make my own music and play it on the piano. This is a piece I made called The Beach. Quarantine gives you a lot of time to practise your hobbies like musical instruments. In quarantine since you can't physically meet friends and teachers I do my piano lesson on facetime just like we do at school.**



**It was my grandad's 71st birthday. I made him a cake all by myself, put up banners and loads of cards. Later we went for our exercise to feed the ducks. I went up a steep hill and got very muddy and a**

*Gracie*  
**few scratches but it was good.**

**I love anything to do with the solar system and space. I have been reading all about it in my book Atlas of the Universe. Our solar system is in the Milky Way galaxy. The nearest galaxy to ours is the Andromeda.**



**I have a solar system model on the ceiling of my bedroom, and it spins around and lights up. I like seeing how the planets rotate around the sun and which ones move fastest and furthest.**

**Last week, there was a Super Flower moon, but it was quite hard to find! We finally got a photo late last Thursday night.**



**I have zoom classes for acro everyday doing stretching, ballet, handstands and lots of strength work so that when we can go back to the gym, we are all fit and strong. I've learnt a few new shapes too.**



**I've also been doing baking and gardening, and looking after one of my dogs who had to have an operation so I made a thank you card for the vets.**



**I have been doing lots of activities during this lockdown period. Every Monday I have a 2 hour session online via zoom from Explore learning and I am also practising my piano, doing reading and learning some cooking with my mum.**



**I have been cooking a lot. I have made my own pizza and I kneaded the dough myself. I also made flapjacks and cornflake crispy cakes.**

**Thank you for your report Year 5. It has been very interesting hearing about what you have all been up to since we saw you last!**

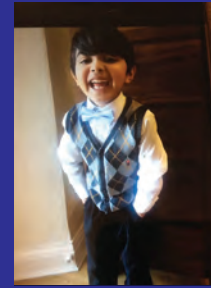




We commemorated VE Day with a real celebration atmosphere! We managed to hold two key stage group Zoom calls and sing in tune as we joined together to give a rendition of 'We'll meet again'.

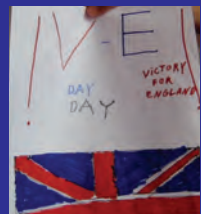


Children baked cakes and scones for street parties and we had cakes at our Zoom tea party. There were quizzes and stories about the Queen's Knickers read by Mr Bird. It was lovely to see everyone dressed up and it party spirits.



Lots of preparation went into the day with children making bunting and commemorative posters at home. See Elliot's special VE story on page 7.

Edward made a model of a replica war plane, the Lancaster Bomber.




We learnt some really interesting World War 2 connected facts during our Zoom calls.

**Mr Kerry taught Sir Winston Churchill's grandson!**



**Teddy and Finlay's grandad features on the front of one of the Royal Mail VE Day commemorative stamps!**



The lady in the picture is my French penfriend, Chantal Fourtage who I started writing to when we were 13 years old. We exchanged letters and visits for five years during which time Chantal fell in love with my brother and they married in Bordeaux Castle.

Chantal's parents and grandparents were members of the French Resistance in World War 2. The Resistance played a vital part in helping the Allies, especially leading up to D-Day in June 1944. They supplied the Allies with intelligence reports as well as doing a huge amount of work to disrupt the German supply and communication lines in France. When Chantal's mother was just 16 years old, she would cross enemy lines on her bike hiding vital information in her underwear! She used to help British pilots by dyeing their hair and making them identity cards to that they could cross enemy lines and get back to England. Her grandfather hid important documents in his wooden leg! They did many incredible and brave things to help the Allies win the war. Although they were very young, my friend's parents were experts in explosives and led teams of Resistance fighters to capture German troops and set traps. They blocked roads, blew up bridges and at great risk to themselves, helped the Allied forces.

Sadly, the German SS captured Chantal's parents and her father was sent to one of the terrible concentration camps in Germany. Her mother escaped and hid in the woods, surviving on what she could find and sleeping rough. Chantal's father was one of the men liberated by the Allies when they opened the concentration camps at the end of the war. What an incredibly brave family! We should all be very thankful for the part the Resistance fighters played in the war.




Chantal's parents received many medals for their bravery and she is very proud of them. She was the mascot of the concentration camp survivors who met once a year in May to celebrate the liberation of their camp. **Mrs Morgan**

# Ooh La La! Très bon



Next Friday will become French Day at Gracefield! We will be celebrating the end of term with lots of French activities for the children which will be detailed in next week's Home Learning Package.

Children in school can wear 'French' clothes (perhaps red, white and blue) and we will be sharing French food, songs and games. Everyone is really looking forward to a day full of 'bonhomie' and we hope that everyone at home will join us in the activities!

# Learning to Tally Up



Reception have been learning how to tally up numbers using a tally chart. The children played a variety of games which made the whole experience a lot of fun!



# INDOORS CAMP OUT FOR VE DAY!

by Elliot

To celebrate VE Day with Scouts, I built a den indoors to sleep in for two nights. I used wood and put a mattress inside and then a sheet with camouflage netting over the top. My mum and I made campsite signs and we named it Fort Wignall. I will earn a badge for camping out for two nights. We also did a zoom call with my cousins, who are scouts and played camp games. It was really fun.



# WHO'S ZOOMING WHO?

We've really enjoyed the Time to Talk slots on the Zoom Class Calls. The children have come up with some really interesting items to share with us. Here are a few we've seen so far!



# MAY BIRTHDAYS



- Mr Bird**  
Thursday, 21st May
- Idrees**  
Friday, 22nd May
- Mrs Tanner**  
Sunday, 24th May
- Charlie (Reception)**  
Monday, 25th May
- Sophie**  
Friday, 29th May
- Lily**  
Sunday, 31st May



Well done for making such a huge effort in your presentations!