

Friday 5th February 2021

Dear parents/carers,

I hope that you and your families continue to stay safe and well. We have now completed five weeks of the current national lockdown and will remain in lockdown until at least 8th March. Your patience and cooperation at this time is appreciated.

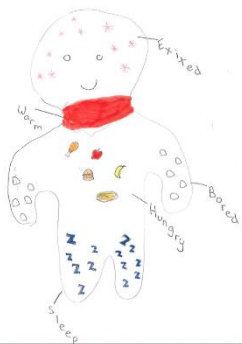
Thank you for your positive feedback for the newly introduced Google Meet and Teams facility to enable our children to remain socially connected with their peers both in school and at home. The children have enjoyed this connectivity. Some examples of feedback from the children are:

'I really enjoyed seeing my friends on the call because it makes me smile.' Macey Year 5.

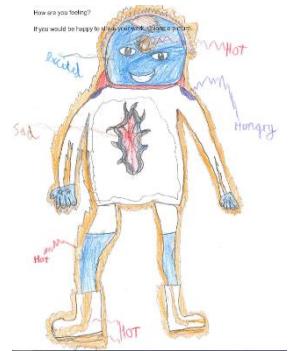
'I enjoyed seeing everybody safe and happy.' Callum Year 5.

This facility will remain as a weekly feature during lockdown and your child/children's class teacher will communicate the date and time with you via Google Classroom for years 2 - 6 and Tapestry for years R and 1.

Children's Mental Health Week



This week children in school and at home have focused on Children's mental health week. The theme of this year's Children's Mental Health Week is **Express Yourself**. Expressing yourself is about finding ways to share feelings, thoughts, or ideas, through creativity. This could be through art, music, writing and poetry, dance and drama, photography and film, and doing activities that make you feel good.



Some examples of creativity this week were the Year 5 children expressing their feelings and emotions through art.

The Year R children expressed kindness by sharing bunches of daffodils with other pods in school. This act of kindness brought big smiles to everyone's faces.

Year 6 created their own 'Nature Bingo' cards and enjoyed running around spotting them. Some were easy – such as 'find a green leaf', whilst others were much more

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challenging – 'spot two seagulls in the sky'. They enjoyed it so much, year 6 shared their game with the other KS2 classes. A brilliant way to enjoy the outside!



SumDog – The Aspire Academy Trust Contest

The Aspire Academy Trust SumDog Contest is here!

Between 08:00 today and 20:00 on Thursday February 11th, your child/children can take part in the contest.



- Your child/children can play at any time.
- For their score to count, the 'The Aspire Academy Trust' activity must be showing in the green panel on the left of your child/children's screen when they click to start each game.
- Their scores are based on correct answers and a class's score will be the average of the scores from all students within that class who take part.
- To appear on the leader board, at least five children from a class need to take part.
- Every child is limited to 1000 contest questions, to allow those with limited computer access the ability to take part.

Friday 12th February INSET day (school closed to all pupils)

As previously advised, on Friday 12th February school is closed to all pupils for a planned Trust INSET staff training day. INSET days are established diary dates in any given academic year and the Trust has retained this date to ensure professional development and teaching and learning best practice continues across all our academies. Connor Downs Academy will be closed to all pupils, including those of critical workers and vulnerable children. During this time, class teachers will set a creative challenge, which will not require a device, which your child/children can take part in if they choose.

Half Term

Aspire academies will be closed to ALL pupils, including critical workers/vulnerable pupils, from w/c 15th February for half term and will reopen to critical worker/vulnerable pupils on Monday 22nd February. Eligible Free School Meals families will receive a Wonde voucher to cover the half term period.

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Full or Wider opening date

In his Downing Street briefing last Wednesday, the Prime Minister announced that he is hopeful that schools could reopen from Monday 8th March, but this is by no means a confirmed date. At this point in time, there is no detail on the proposed 'road map' for return. Planning for wider opening will begin in liaison with the Trust as soon as details begin to emerge and we will keep you informed.

COVID-19 Asymptomatic Staff Testing Programme Across Aspire Academies

Every primary school in England now has access to rapid coronavirus testing for staff only. This testing, known as lateral flow testing, for our staff, is now taking place twice a week.

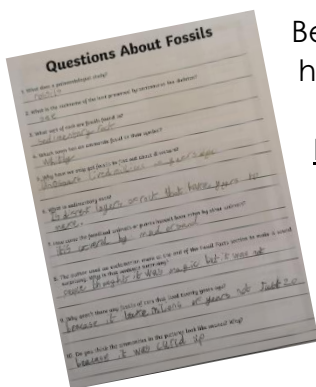
Please be aware that in a positive test scenario, you may receive communication of a bubble closure (if your child is in school) at extremely short notice, before school, on the morning of the closure. **You will be informed by text so please check your text messages from 8am onwards on a Monday and a Thursday morning.**

Reporting Positive COVID-19 Test (out of hours)

If you receive a positive COVID-19 test, in the first instance please contact the school office by phone. If the office is closed, please complete the form at the link below to report a positive test.

<http://www.aspireacademytrust.org/coronavirus>

Home Learning



Below are some more examples of some of the amazing home learning taking place across our academy.

Reuban's fossils worksheet

Freya's Fossil drawing



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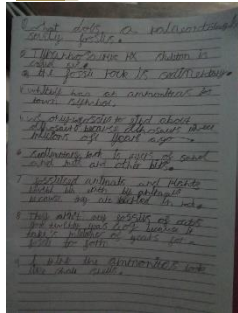
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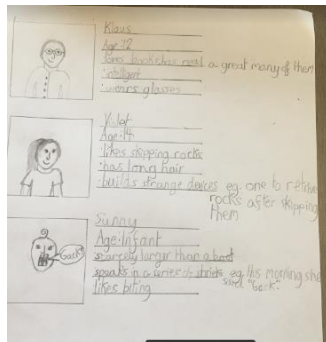
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Solomon's fossils worksheet

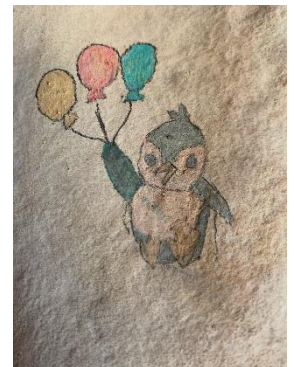


**Amber's bird artwork
linked to Charles Darwin**



Alice's Fossil drawing

**Kitty's character analysis of the
Baudelaire orphans**

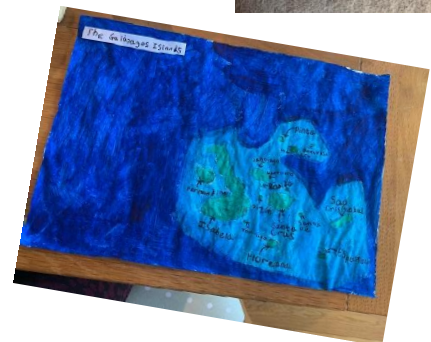


Eloise's rock art

Noah's PE assault course



**Emy's
Galapago's Map**



Oliver's Galapago's Map

Shine Celebrations

Please see below our Shining Stars for this week, to include both children in school and home learning.

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Connor Downs Academy Shining Stars Friday 5th February 2021

Year R – Lissi

For her fantastic engagement with Reception's home learning to date. Lissi, along with her puppy, Yoshi, retold the story of 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers, embarking on an exciting voyage to the South Pole.



Year 1 – Katrice

For super work across all her subjects, especially in her maths, adding one more and one less to numbers with 50. Katrice has also been a wonderful peer mentor for her friends, showing them the dance moves for our favourite pirate song. Well done Katrice!



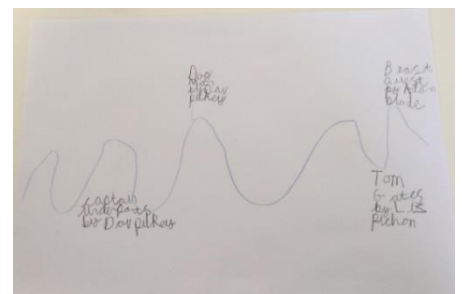
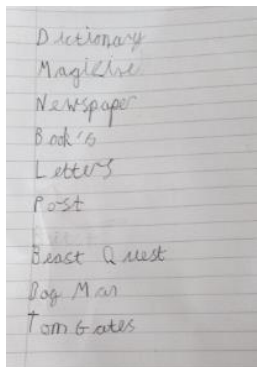
Year 2 – Cayden

For excellent theme work, making huge progress across all areas, asking questions and challenging himself. Well Done Cayden!



Year 3 – Ben

For great work with your home learning in English. Ben is working hard to make progress with his reading by reading a range of books from the library. He is also showing super participation in PE, practicing balancing with his family.



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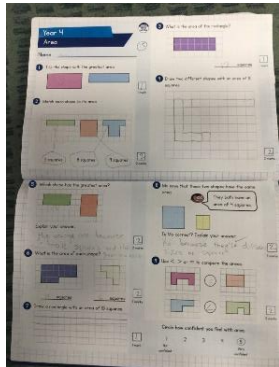
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Year 4 – Mason

For his excellent focus during our learning this week. Mason scored full marks in a maths assessment, did some super art work demonstrating superb concentration and for mastering a new game that involved calm think skills. Well Done Mason for a super week!



Year 5 – Lana

For her enthusiasm for learning fractions and commitment to learning at home every day.

✓ a) Convert the mixed numbers to improper fractions. $2 \text{ and } \frac{3}{4} = \frac{\quad}{4}$
Type the numerator in the answer box.

11

✓ b) Convert the mixed numbers to improper fractions. $2 \text{ and } \frac{3}{8} = \frac{\quad}{8}$
Type the numerator in the answer box.

19

Questions

- When was David Attenborough born? [1] 1906
- How many siblings did he have? [1] two
- What did his brother Richard do when he grew up that made him famous? [2] he made dramatic parks.
- What kind of family did David grow up in? [2] well-off family.
- In fact, by the age of seven he had already created his very own "museum" of land eggs, and stamps and ancient fossils.
- What does this tell us about David as a boy? [1] he loved nature.
- Why is the word museum in inverted commas? [1] because it is not a real museum.
- When did David study at University? [1] the natural world.
- Explain why David did not want to work in a university [1] because he wanted to do a tv show about nature.
- His boss at the BBC initially told Attenborough he shouldn't actually work in front of the cameras as his "teeth were too big" but after several years he started to make a name for himself, making the successful Zoo Quest series.
- Why are the words "teeth were too big" in inverted commas? [1] because they were not big.
- Find and copy one phrase that tells us that Attenborough was becoming famous. [1] he brought nature to the tv's.
- Why do you think that David Attenborough ignored his boss. Use evidence from the text about his personality? [1] because he never gives up.
- Why was David's career in the Navy disappointing to him? [2] he wanted to travel the world.
- What does the text tell you about television before 1965. Why was this important to Attenborough's career? [2] you had to be good looking.

11) What else does David do, other than presenting, to contribute to his TV programmes? [2] he goes to different places.

12) The great presenter is no prima donna, always travelling economy class with his film crew, only accepting offers for airline upgrades if it extends to his crew as well. A modest David has been quoted as saying, "People assume I do all the work, I keep having to tell them, it was the cameramen, not me".

Why does the author include this information about David Attenborough? [2] to show that it is not him and he cares about them.

13) What is David afraid of? [2] he is afraid of rats.

14) How do we know that David is courageous? [2] he goes to different places for his tv show.


15) Why do you think the author tells us about the other people included in the 100 Greatest Britons list? [2] Winston Churchill, princess Diana and Charles Darwin.

16) What two sentences tell us that David still wishes to carry on exploring, travelling and making his programmes? [2] because he cares about the environment. He wants to save animals.

Year 6 – Ellie B

For the super effort you are putting into your Google Classroom work, particularly with the brilliant reading comprehension task about Sir David Attenborough earlier in the week. Well done for everything you are doing - Miss Norton and Mrs Smitheram are so proud of you.

Kind Regards,



Mrs Eddy
Head of School

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