

Thursday 11th February 2021

Dear parents/carers,

I hope that you and your families are safe and well.

Today we break up for the February half term and looking back over the last six weeks there is much to celebrate. Thanks to your support and cooperation during the current lockdown, our children whether in school or accessing their learning from home, have achieved numerous successes and incredible achievements, many of which have been shared here in our weekly newsletter or via our Twitter and Facebook feeds. We have remained connected as a school community and have supported each other both socially and academically. I know that moving forward, as the lockdown continues, this network of support will remain strong.

I hope that you enjoy the half term break with your families and I look forward to the new half term beginning on Monday 22nd February.



Safer Internet day

This week the children in school and at home have been recognising Safer Internet Day in a variety of ways.

Year R shared the Childnet e-book, 'Smartie the Penguin', learning about ways to stay safe when accessing technology, just like Smartie! Afterwards, one pupil explained, "You have to play with a teacher or a grown up when you go on your tablet because that's safe and they can look after you".



Year 2 created posters about Internet Safety

Year 4 tuned into the BBC teach LIVE lesson in Internet Safety.



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In year 5, the pupils were asked to assess the motive behind certain sites and posts and unpick the motives of those influencers online.



Put your skills to the test - What is the motive?



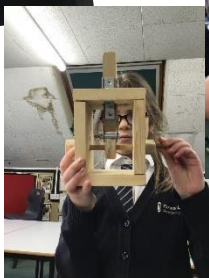
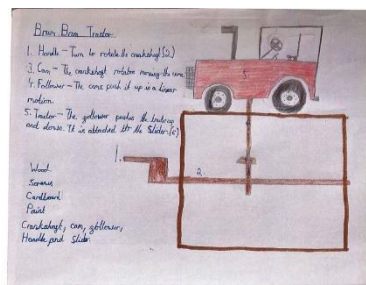
1. Where has it come from?
It has come from the creator of the video.
2. Who created or shared it?
MaddieeeeVlog was the creator of the video.
3. What do they want me to do?
They want me to subscribe and like the video.
4. Will they gain anything?
They will gain money from the views.

Year 6 participated in the Aspire Safer Internet Assembly along with many other schools. Afterwards, they developed their knowledge and understanding by completing various levels of Google's Safe Internet programme 'Interland'.

Year 5 – Investigating Cams.

In this unit, the children have designed and made a moving toy which incorporates a cam mechanism. They have investigated how rotary movement is converted into linear movement to produce the toy.

When making, the children sanded, glued and trimmed as they assembled the components ensuring that they used the correct vocabulary for each part. In class, we have made a design technology display to celebrate our hard work. We have been delighted with the drawings and diagrams of those children working at home.



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SumDog – The Aspire Academy Trust Contest



Well done to all of our children who have taken part in The Aspire Academy Trust SumDog Contest.

At the time of writing, our top performing pupils from Connor Downs Academy are Henry J in year 5, in 19th place across the whole Trust followed by Callum in year 5, in 50th place.



Our top performing classes are Year 2 and Year 4.

A reminder you can still take part with the contest **closing at 8:00pm tonight.**

Thank you

This week, Reception celebrated the second birthday of their class guinea pigs, Toffee and Milkshake. Thank you so much to Toby in Year R for sharing a beautiful, handmade card, along with a hamper of delicious vegetable treats. Toffee and Milkshake are lucky to be cared for by such thoughtful children.



Full or Wider opening date

In his Downing Street briefing a couple of weeks ago, 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.

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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>

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 Thursday 11th February 2021

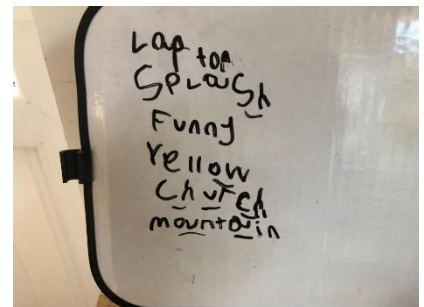


Year R – Isaac

For his fantastic engagement with Reception's 'Animal Kingdom' topic, learning all about the 12 animals of the Chinese Zodiac. Isaac created a super model of his Zodiac animal, Monkey.

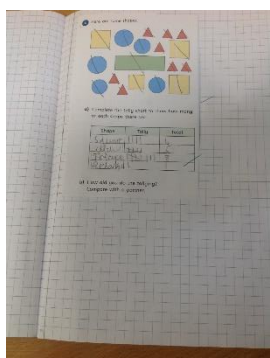
Year 1 – Tegen

For working so hard at home in all her subjects, especially in her spelling getting each one correct. Well done Tegen, please keep up this brilliant work!



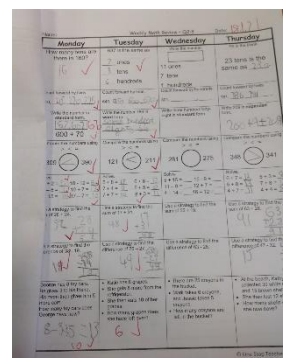
Year 2 – Sam

For showing his reading understanding by retelling a story using puppets and expression to engage his audience.



Year 3 – Lily-Mae

For sharing her great answers in Spiral Maths and White Rose statistics to help her friends find the answer. Lil-Mae always works hard, persevering to find the correct answer. Well done!



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Birds in Your Garden
Jackdaw

<p>Jackdaws live... throughout the UK, except for the Scottish Highlands.</p> <p>They're social birds and roost communally in woodlands. They can also be found in woods, heath parks and gardens.</p>	
<p>Jackdaws eat... insects, young birds and eggs, fruit, seeds and scraps.</p>	<p>Jackdaws have... have a distinctive silvery sheen to the back of its head. The pale eyes are also noticeable.</p>
<p>Interesting Information: You can see jackdaws at any time of year. They often join up with rooks and carrion crows in autumn and winter to roost together in huge numbers.</p>	

Year 4 – Harry

For his amazing research about different garden birds for English and in Science for making a string telephone with his brother. Harry wows us every day with his efforts in his remote learning. Keep it up Harry!

Year 5 – Phoebe

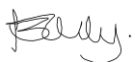
For the nurture and care of our tadpoles including organising their feeding timetable.



Year 6 – Leo VP

For having an excellent half-term of learning. Leo shows such maturity and is consistently pushing himself to produce top-quality work. Leo is a very thoughtful member of the class who always has something interesting to share. Well done Leo!

Kind Regards,



Mrs Eddy
Head of School

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