



Wookey Weekly News

Friday 27th March 2020

Special Edition No. 2

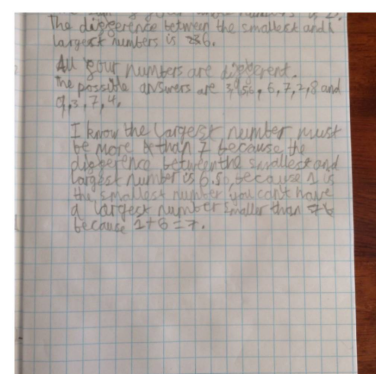
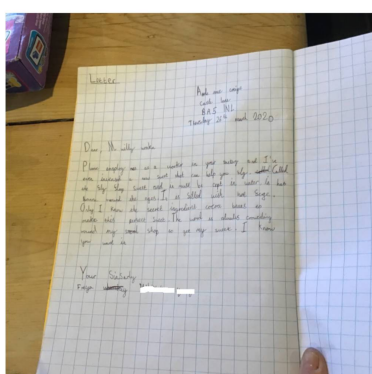
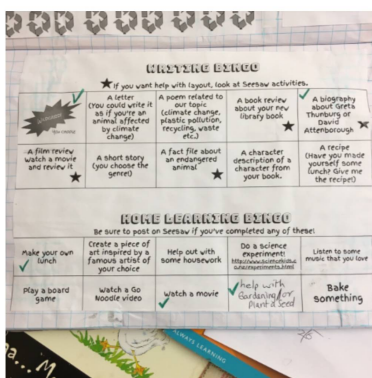
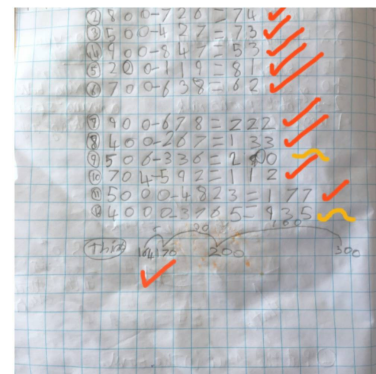
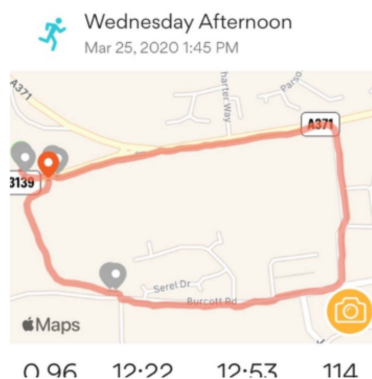
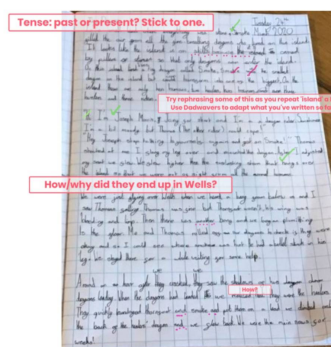


Home learning

The teachers and I have been overwhelmed by the levels of engagement with our Seesaw learning platform this week. I want to thank you on behalf of the staff for taking the time to support your children with their home learning.

I am writing this on Thursday morning and I can see from the website that 90% of our children have posted something to their home learning at least 4 times this week, which equates to once a day. 25% of our children have posted least 20 times this week, which is amazing! I would like to ask everyone to at least check in with their teachers once a day, as it is vital the children do not fall behind with the work that is being set. If you are having any problems with accessing Seesaw, please get in touch with us and we will do what we can to help.

Here are just a few of the examples of the home learning that have really impressed me this week:



I also want to thank those parents who have sent us kind and supportive messages letting us know you that you have appreciated the teachers' hard work. Teaching remotely is a challenging task but a hugely important one. We are likely to be doing this for a few weeks and only by working together can we minimise the disruption our enforced closure has on the children's learning.

A key factor in minimising this disruption is ensuring that the children act on the feedback that their teachers give them through Seesaw. We know what they are capable of, and we want them to show us their 'best' work. Thank you for supporting us by ensuring that the children complete work set by their teacher, read comments posted by their teachers and follow them up in their learning if requested.

Stars of the week

This week's stars of the week are: Lucas and Beth (Willow Class), Ruby and Logan (Rowan Class), Henry and Evan (Oak Class) and Ava (Chestnut Class).

They were nominated by their teachers for really working hard on their home learning and showing our school values of engagement, active learning, independence and respect. It was a tough decision for them all to make. Our celebration recently has been a mug of hot chocolate with whipped cream and marshmallows, so I would love to hear how these children were able to celebrate at home.



We are celebrating birthdays for Miss Broom and Shea (Chestnut) this week. Happy birthday to them both!

Walking Bus

Our 'virtual walking bus' has been very popular this week. I am pleased to report that we have broken our participation record already, with 40 children uploading their activity to Seesaw on one particular day. It is so important for the children to stay active in these challenging times, so I am pleased to see that they are doing so.

Uploading to 'activities'

I noticed that there was a bit of confusion with the correct way to respond to Seesaw activities this week. I think that everyone has worked it out now. but just to be sure please make sure that your child clicks on the green 'response' button to send a response to an activity that has been sent to them. This should be done rather than just uploading their response to their learning journal. Many thanks.

Update re. Hooke Court payments

Can we please ask that parents of children who are taking part in the Residential visit to Hooke Court in the summer term hold off on making payments for the 3rd instalment, which is due on March 31st, if they have not already paid it. We will inform parents as soon as we have further information what the situation of the trip is in relation to COVID-19.

Childcare

You will be aware that although school is closed to the vast majority of children, we remain open to provide childcare for children of parents who are considered to be 'critical workers' in terms of the fight against COVID-19. Can we please ask during this ongoing crisis that, if you consider your role to be

critical, and that there is no way your child can remain safely at home, you contact us at least 24 hours before any childcare is needed, which will give us enough time to ascertain if we are able to offer a place. Additionally, if you are offered a place but find that you are able to make arrangements for your child to stay at home instead, please let us know as early as possible (preferably by 9pm the day before) so that staff do not have to make unnecessary journeys outside their homes.


If we are able to offer a place, we will be following the Government guidelines for implementing social distancing in education and childcare settings. Further information about how this will impact any children attending a childcare session will be given to parents who make a successful application for a place.

COVID-19 resources

I have been made aware of a website called 'Every Mind Matters' which is produced by the NHS and contains expert advice and top tips on how to look after your mental wellbeing if you need to stay at home during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. It also includes guidance if you're feeling worried or anxious about the outbreak. Click on the image below to be taken to the site. If the link doesn't work then the site address is <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/>

I have also been sent a resource which parents of children who are finding it particularly tricky to cope with the stresses and strains of the current situation might find useful. Click [here](#) for this resource


Coronavirus and mental wellbeing



Mental wellbeing while staying at home

Find guidance, advice and tips on how to maintain your mental wellbeing if you need to stay at home.

[Advice for staying at home >](#)



Worried about coronavirus?

It's natural to feel anxious during times of uncertainty. See the 10 simple things you can do to maintain your mental wellbeing and deal with anxiety about the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

[Coronavirus anxiety tips >](#)

Safeguarding is everybody's business.

If you are worried about a child or young person who could be in danger, please contact:

Children's Social Care on 0300 123 2224 or by email at childrens@somerset.gov.uk or the contact the police directly by dialling 101 and they will discuss with Children's Social Care.

In an emergency always contact the police by dialling 999.