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NEWSLETTER No.22

Friday 1st May 2020

OUR VISION: 'Life in all its fullness'

We hope you find this newsletter informative and enjoyable. Please do also scroll through to the end section, where you can find some useful materials on emotional health and wellbeing, a school website resources list and up-to-date information on the government's current guidance & response.

Dear Parents/Carers,

Now that our school days have settled down into a bit more of a routine, we have decided to re-boot our newsletter. It will come out every two weeks at the same time as the [new English and Maths units](#) are published to you. We will use it to share some learning news from our pupils as well as flag up the latest advice and ideas presented on our website.

In terms of our home learning guidance, we have talked thus far in terms of phases and initially we projected towards a 'phase 3' which could include more interactivity between pupils and teachers, using platforms like Google Classroom. While some schools embraced this fully and almost immediately, the advice now from the authorities is to exercise extreme caution in this respect. From our perspective now the 'phase 2' set up has been received well by parents and children alike and teachers are being kept very busy managing this level of support, without adding to it at

present. Some of you may know of very different approaches being taken by independent schools but I would advise against equating this to better learning outcomes.

In terms of Maths and English - two thoughts. Firstly, with regard to their maths, please note that some of the methods we teach the children in school may sometimes be different from those you were taught. For the sake of consistency and clarity for the children, I would advise either following the maths programme we have provided (which includes enough explanation about methodology) or devote your efforts to basic skills like number bonds, doubles, halves, times tables etc where methodology comes less into play. I am not for a moment suggesting your methods are 'wrong' – I wouldn't be so bold - but, where maths is concerned, I would make a plea for consistency. Secondly, regarding reading, I am becoming increasingly aware that plenty of you would be thankful for some kind of access to our 'store' of books. With this in mind, please let your child's class teacher know what you might need and we will come up with a system where you can collect them (and drop them back) safely from outside the school. Clearly this could become an organisational nightmare - so please, if you have other sources, use them where you can.

At school we are welcoming in approximately 25 children daily, some staying just for the morning and some for the whole day. Some of our staff are coming into school; others are working from home. All our staff are working full days, as well as some teaching their own children at home. The staff have been an inspiration - they are always so committed and have risen to this challenge without batting an eyelid. They have recognised the significant challenge the situation presents to children and their families and have all pulled their weight and done whatever they can to help. They have also seen beyond the challenge, to any opportunities the situation presents for supporting pupils better now and for the future. For example, some of us here (as I'm sure for plenty of you at home), have become quickly more proficient in the use of technology and I am certain this will leave a positive legacy for children's learning going forward.

Please say a big 'hello and well done you'- to all your children. Looking over some of the learning presented on padlets and coming in by email and to myself for inclusion on this newsletter, I have been heartened by their enthusiasm and creativity. Equally I am reassured by the enlightened, flexible approach I can see being taken to learning. We do well to remind ourselves that we / you are trying to facilitate 'home learning' at the moment, not 'home schooling.' It is enough to be the best parents we can be - there is no good need for us all to become teachers and I know our children will be gaining something precious from this quality time with their families, from the 'soft stuff' that our busy, busy lives, in normal times, too often skid past. Dare I squeeze in that Oscar Wilde quote, "Education is an admirable thing, but it is well to remember from time to time that

nothing that is worth knowing can be taught.” Now don’t get me wrong, we do need to teach, parents and teachers alike, and I would dearly like your children back at some point, but let’s not kid ourselves – learning is everywhere and for a lifetime and at best the business of drawing it out of people trumps the business of shovelling it in!

Before I sign off here, can I make one request: despite some possible upsides, let us not underestimate just how much the children are having to process concerning the virus and the anxiety around it. As much calm and joy as we can fit in day to day will help but we will also need to be supporting them in their thinking, whether they are showing any anxiety or not - they miss very little! There is plenty of advice out there - here is a [book recommendation](#) which I know has already done the rounds on the parents' facebook page.

Nick Moss

Headteacher

[PASTORAL](#)

Dear Parents/Carers - I hope you are all keeping well in these uncertain times. I just wanted to say that if there is anything I can help with: food vouchers, support with mental health or just a chat to talk through a concern you have, I am here. I also wanted to make you aware of two web addresses that you may find helpful, if you have been furloughed and your company isn't making up the shortfall:

1. Click [here](#) for information on financial support that furloughed workers can get if they can't manage on 80% of their wages (if employers are not topping Government money up to 100%)
2. Click [here](#) for information on the help people can get with their gas and electricity bills.

Please don't sit and worry, there may be things as a school we can help with. If you contact the school, the number it is diverted to my mobile so it will be completely confidential, or please feel free to email me on k.bennett@minchschoo.net. Stay safe and I hope to see you and the children soon - Kerrie Bennett, Pastoral/Office Manager.

HOME LEARNING INFO EMAILS & DATA COLLECTION SHEETS

Home Learning information is now being e-mailed to all parents/carers at regular intervals (eg. fortnightly on a Friday, the same day as the newsletter). It is also posted onto the Home Learning page here on the school website.

If you are not receiving the Home Learning e-mails from us, or are not able to access the website to locate them, please contact the school office via admin@minchscool.net or call **01453 883273** and we will be able to help you access the information. Please advise us of any updates to your e-mail address(es), or any other contact information, so that we have your most up-to-date information on the school database.

If you are yet to return your most recent (light blue) data collection sheet, distributed at the most recent parents' evening, please fill out and return it to the school office, by post if you prefer, or by hand via the black school postbox under the eaves near the school office. Many thanks - Mr Moss & The School Office.

READING-AT-HOME GALLERY - PHOTOS WANTED FOR SCHOOL LIBRARY!

Dear Children - We hope that many of you, wherever possible, are enjoying reading at home together for thirty minutes each day (or more, as and when the mood might take you!). We would really love to decorate the school library with your photographs, of a precious moment spent during this challenging time, delving into a book. So, we are asking for your snaps! It would be great to have images of you, with your parents/carers, siblings and maybe even a pet or cuddly friend too, getting cosy for some reading together whilst at home. Perhaps you could pick a strange or unexpected place in your home or garden to be snapped being bookworms together, or even get dressed up in a funny costume. We look forward to seeing your photos and adorning the school library with an all-new Reading-at-Home Gallery, ready for you to spot each other's pictures once we're all finally back together in school. Please send your Reading-at-Home snaps through to admin@minchscool.net. Many thanks & happy reading!

PENCIL DRAWINGS WANTED FOR NEW SCHOOL BOOKLET!



We are currently in the process of putting together a new Parent Information Booklet for the school. We would like to liven up the pages of the booklet with some line drawings by Minch students of all ages, and we hope some of you might like to get involved! If you would like to join in, choose one or more of the following titles and create your own simple, clear line drawing inspired by the title. Use white paper and draw with pencil or coloured pencils/crayons. Then send a photo/scan of it to admin@minchschoo.net, or post it into school via the black school postbox. Thank you & happy drawing!

- **Our school building, surrounded by trees & the common**
- **Reception children ready for their first day of school**
- **Sunshine**
- **School Computers**
- **School Library**
- **My favourite club**
- **A School Trip**
- **Outdoor Learning**
- **Reading**
- **School Uniform**
- **School Lunches**
- **Sport**
- **Music & Drama**

RECEPTION & YEAR 1 NEWS

It has been a busy couple of weeks. We have seen some fantastic artwork, detailed maps, erupting volcanoes and plenty of creative thinking and experimenting besides. Many of the children have been making good use of outside space during their daily exercise, which has been lovely to hear about. It has been a real pleasure to hear about and see so much learning happening at home. There are some examples included below and there will be plenty more to follow in the next newsletter in a fortnight's time! *From Mrs Jackson (Teal Class)*

AQUA CLASS

Aqua Class have been so busy at home over the past few weeks doing so many exciting things that it is difficult to squeeze it into this Newsletter. The time at home has allowed us to let our creative juices flow and learn to do lots of new things. We have become scientists, botanists, explorers, bakers, cartographers, gardeners, authors and mathematicians. Below is some of the artwork we have done.

Grayson was inspired by the colours, shapes and black outlines of Joan Miro's artwork . Jacob drew monsters after reading Bedtime for Monsters. His monsters are called Teeth, Glow, Glow One-eye and Pumpkin Bottom.



Many of us have taken advantage of the lovely sunny weather and spent time outside, learning the names of wildflowers, finding minibeasts and I am glad to see many still fitting in their daily run on the common. Some of us have learnt to ride our bikes without stabilisers! We all mindfully planted peas of peace in school before lockdown and it is lovely to see how they have all grown. Thomas and Luke's pea plant have even got pea pods on! Jenson measures how much his has grown with a tape measure. This is Audrey's pea called Mrs Pea. She has planted her pea outside and checks how much it has grown because it reminds her of all of her friends and teachers at school. *From Mrs Saeed (Aqua Class)*

MIDNIGHT CLASS

Thank you for sharing your work on Tapestry Midnight Class. It is very impressive. I have particularly enjoyed the learning you have been doing outside, in the glorious weather we have been having. Here is a picture of Willow's baking. They are wild garlic and cheese scones and they look delicious. You can see Byron and Edward's monsters below - they have climbed into a tree like PomPom and Scratch! Matthew, Olivia, Georgie and Carrie's marvellous maths are pictured below too.



From Mrs Bugg (Midnight Class)



YEAR 2 NEWS

INDIGO CLASS

For this week's newsletter, we proudly present Indigo's **Arcimboldo Art Gallery**. Here is 'Fruit and Vegetable Face' by Harriet, who was very proud of her work! As she should be. You can enjoy some more of Indigo's wonderful artwork below, based on the work of Giuseppe Arcimboldo. Well done to all this week's other featured artists.



From Miss Gittins (Indigo Class)



AZURE CLASS

There have been some lovely comments made on the class Padlet, with children saying how they have set up cafés, museums and snack shops to improve their money skills. Lots of people have said they are growing seeds and plants and some have drawn or painted and labeled the parts of a part too. Several people have begun to get to grips with their learning about Arcimbaldo and there are some nice pictures of faces beginning to be created and sent to the class email address. Other people have begun learning

more about the World, the continents, the oceans and places in the United Kingdom. Some people have been following their own interests too, so Chloe has been busy making dream catchers, Lucas has been learning about caterpillars and quantum physics and Ran and his family have created a plant museum! There have also been some lovely pictures of Rapunzel's tower! Daniel wrote a story on the computer and sent it to the class email address. You can enjoy reading it below. Thank you all for being so creative and hardworking. Keep sending me your pictures and commenting on Padlet, it's lovely to hear from you all. **From Mrs Hugginson (Azure Class)**



DANIEL'S STORY

Once upon a time there was a man who lived in a cottage and he wanted to go on holiday. The very next day he went on holiday. He was going to London in a train, he packed his food, clothes, valuables and pictures and then he was ready. He walked to the train station step by step when he arrived, he got his ticket and waited for the train to come.

As he waited for the train to come more and more people were coming to wait for the train. The more people that came the more worried he got. As the train arrived at the station everyone clambered on, except for the man as the train was full. The whistle blew and the train was off, the man was extremely sad because he needed to get to London at 2 o'clock and it was quarter to 1 already.

Suddenly another man rose above him and said there is no need to cry because you may have a ride in my car whenever you want to go on holiday. The other man was filled with joy and managed to approach London at just the right time and all was happy from then on.

YEAR 3 & 4 NEWS

CYAN CLASS

In Cyan's gallery of work for this week's newsletter, we have Oliver and the Seawigs Art by Aaila and Lizzy, Daisy's Pollution Poster, Shakespeare themed-projects by Bea (Elizabethan Clothes) and Esme (Broken Hearts and Star Crossed Lovers), Lizzie has made a bird feeder, Isabel has created Hester from School for Good and Evil and Sam has made a Harry Potter Capturing the Snitch artwork. **From Ms McCarron (Cyan Class)**



SAPPHIRE CLASS

There have been so many amazing photos sent to Sapphire Class' Padlet. This is Arty's Chocolate Art. It has been lovely to see the pupils comment on each other's work and send messages to each other over these past few weeks. Below are some photos of Shakespeare's Globe made by Martha and James' Wildlife Pond. Lots of pupils in Sapphire Class have made ponds and bug hotels for their Science unit; we can't wait to see what visitors turn up!

From Miss Tonner (Sapphire Class)



ROYAL CLASS

The children have been completing some lovely activities, including sharing some wonderful drawings of 'Mr Culpeper', a character from their 'Oliver and the Seawigs' Power of Reading unit. They have all imagined the character in different ways and it has been lovely to see how they imagine the character in their minds. Someone has been working hard to create an animal 'guess who' game, researching different animals, classifying them and sorting them into categories, before creating a picture and information card for each animal - they look great and I can't wait to see the finished game! Another child has been creating a storybook based on the lifecycle of a butterfly, doing lots of research and filling the stories with different literary devices and illustrations. It was super creative and a joy to read.



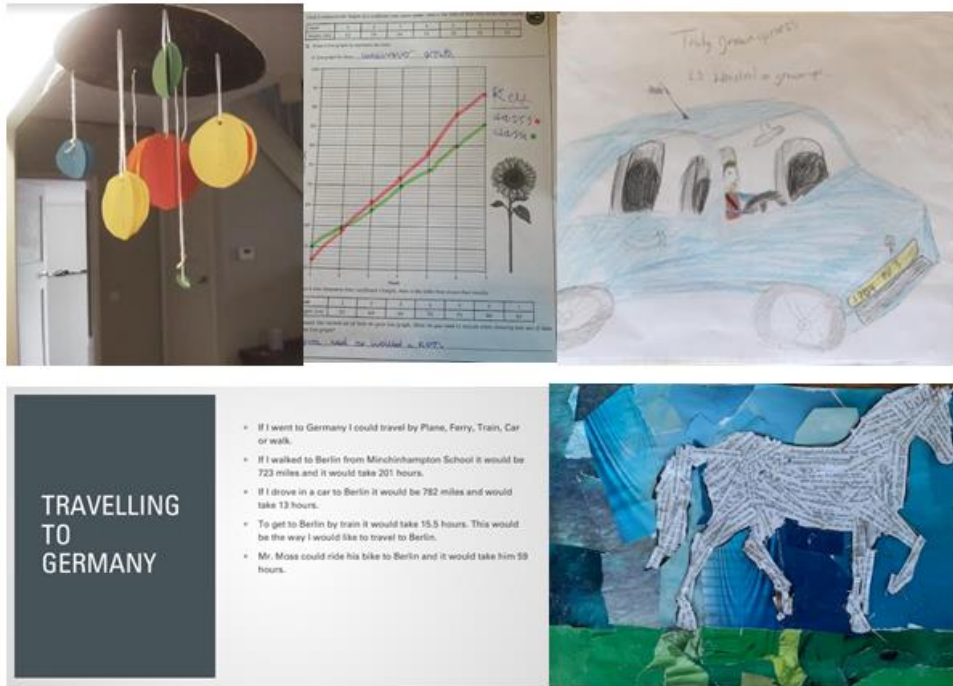
This is Ernie's collage - he created it to celebrate Earth day, using bark and branches from an apple tree in his garden. A few children have been doing some crazy science experiments, creating ooblick (a substance that is both liquid and solid) as well as lava lamps. Some have also been taking to engineering and learning how to make a moving car out of a water bottle and balloon. Others have been gathering lots of different materials to create collages of jungles and volcanos whilst out for their hour of daily exercise. *From Miss Griffiths (Royal Class)*

YEAR 5 & 6 NEWS



TURQUOISE CLASS

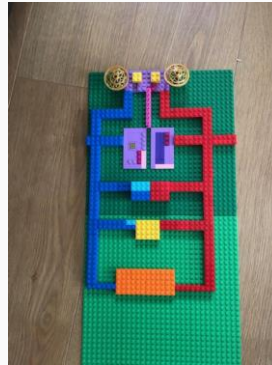
Click [here](#) for George's GIF, and [here](#) for Alice's GIF, part of this selection of some of the activities being done by children in Turquoise class. The gallery below includes Iris's solar system mobile, Oscar's maths line graph and a page from his geography project, Viola's poster and Maisie's collage. *From Mr Weinberger (Turquoise Class)*



SKY CLASS

Each pin in the map below shows a country study powerpoint presentation uploaded by the children in Sky! Special mentions should be made to so many, like Noah, Freya and Konrad for their awesome presentations. Alfie has made an audio recording of his fantastic TED talk about his adopted cats and there is so much more still to mention - below are a few pieces of artwork by Sky children, featuring the creativity and skills of Alex, Alfie, Bea, Jess and Lola. *From Mr Ricketts (Sky Class)*





COBALT CLASS

We have been learning about the parts of blood. There have been a lot of 'blood' smoothies made! Our chosen artist to study at the moment is Chris Ofili. Can you guess who these faces are?

From Miss Smith & Mrs Aldridge (Cobalt Class)





NEWS FROM IN SCHOOL

In school we have been learning plenty but also having fun. Last week we created a mountain biking track which goes up hills, over bumpy bits and grassy bits, up and along banks and down the other side. It's very bumpy, a little bit 'skiddy,' but really cool! We've done English and Maths but we've also made windmills, a new design for a mobile phone, bark rubbings, paintings. We've been pond dipping, bike circuit racing, tennis 'matching', yoga ball footballing, fortress building, hide and seeking, frisbee golfing and much much more.

By Leo and Lucy

Here is a poem by Lucy about school on our return:

People crying with laughter,
Children talking in small huddles,
Lush green trees gently blowing in the breeze,
Soft grass trampled by people playing football,
Little people dropping their lunches on the floor,
Everyone helping everyone,
School makes me happy.

**WE HOPE YOU HAVE ENJOYED READING THE NEWSLETTER.
KEEP SCROLLING DOWN FOR UP-TO-DATE LINKS, INFORMATION & RESOURCES.
WITH VERY BEST WISHES,
FROM ALL AT MINCHINHAMPTON C of E PRIMARY ACADEMY**

SCHOOL WEBSITE LINKS - EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

[New English & Maths Work \(published Friday 1st May 2020\)](#)

[Axel Scheffler Coronavirus Information Book](#)

[Picture News - Captain Tom Moore Special](#)

[P4C post with Picture News](#)

[From Mrs Webb \(School Library\) - Book of Hopes & Discovering Book Activities](#)

[Coding & Game Design \(Computer and Board Games\) with Earthgames.uk](#)

[Cheltenham Science Festival goes virtual](#)

[Nursery - Spring Ideas](#)

[Nursery - September 2020 updated Admissions Info](#)

**LATEST GOVERNMENT ADVICE
& UPDATES FOR PARENTS/CARERS**

All of the Department for Education's coronavirus guidance for educational settings can now be found [in one place on the gov.uk website](#). Our [school website](#) is being regularly kept up to date with the latest information.

Additional information on resources available to parents and keeping children safe online can be found [here](#).

The Department for Education Coronavirus Helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care. Parents, young people and staff can contact the helpline 0800 046 8687, on weekdays from 8am to 6pm, and at weekends from 10am to 4pm.

The latest guidance and a video on handwashing can be found [here](#).

The e-Bug project is led by Public Health England and has a dedicated webpage for learning resources on hand washing and respiratory hygiene. [Resources](#) can be used in various settings including schools and at home.

The Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson, has sent a letter to all education providers sharing his gratitude and placing special emphasis on continued efforts to ensure as many vulnerable children and young people are supported to attend an education setting where it is in their best interests to do so. This letter can be found [here](#).

The government has outlined the process for **access to internet, digital devices and support for vulnerable and disadvantaged young people**, to enable engagement in remote education during the coronavirus outbreak. Guidance can be found [here](#).

It is important for educational settings to ensure that they are making use of the security features and filters on any video conferencing service they choose to use. Review this [guidance](#) from the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) for organisations and individuals using video conferencing services securely.

[Guidance](#) has been published to help education settings to follow [safeguarding procedures](#) when teaching remotely during the coronavirus outbreak.

[Guidance](#) on the management of school premises which are partially open during the coronavirus outbreak has been published, to make sure children and staff are kept safe.

[Go to SCHOOL WEBSITE latest government updates page](#)

EMOTIONAL HEALTH & WELLBEING MATERIALS

PLACE 2 BE

[Wellbeing Activity Ideas for Families](#)

[Wellbeing Activity Ideas for Schools](#)

Mental Health Resources for Schools

ANNA FREUD NATIONAL CENTRE FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Supporting young people's mental health during periods of disruption

MENTALLY HEALTHY SCHOOLS

CRUSE BEREAVEMENT CARE

[SCHOOL WEBSITE](#)

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