



School website: www.hortonprimary.gov.uk

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1st May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope this finds you all well. As always we are so proud of you all. It has been wonderful to see all the activities and acts of kindness you and your children are doing for others including Jimmy coordinating a home cinema night for his family. Older siblings have been helping younger family members with their learning and Ted continues to keep everyone fit in Robins class with his weekly exercise class.

We also know the positive impact of talking about the seasons and changes when out for a walk, spotting changes in nature and also having a go at planting seeds to watch plants grow—exploring what they need to survive. Gardening has proved a big hit for home learning and helps with well-being too. I was impressed with Henry's garden plot and Ollie's plants, both are looking good! And whilst my seedlings are mostly doing well (still no sign from the courgettes though) I have not been attempting the Bake Off that seems to be taking place across the juniors. Frankly it is hard work compiling this newsletter with so many photographs of mouth-watering food. It makes me feel very hungry!

It has also been heartening to see such a range of subjects taught practically including art in nature, design and technology and science. We enjoyed seeing Tommy's hot air balloon, Noah's art outside and Jack growing crystals as well as everyone persevering with TTRS, Spelling Shed and the home learning sheets. Well done everyone for all your home learning - regular practice of key skills will help embed your knowledge into your long-term memory as will applying learning to real-life activities so keep up with all your efforts. They make a difference!

It is important that we stay vigilant about staying safe whilst we enjoy the benefits of technology. Here are some useful links with more information:

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyberaware/home> This is the latest government advice about staying safe online during corona virus. It has some simple to follow instructions for basic things like re-setting passwords and keeping apps up to date.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/blog/2020/04/23/government-provides-new-online-safety-advice-for-families-during-coronavirus-lockdown/> This is more child based. At the bottom in the *more to explore* section there are individual sections for different age groups. In the 11-13 age section there are suggested resources for that age children, articles, IT expert Q&As on different topics, guides for safely setting up different apps etc. It looks like a very good overview that provides parents with further links if you want to dig deeper.

Look after yourselves and please let us know if we can help at all. Sometimes it is just good to talk to someone about your concerns. Class Dojo is a useful way of keeping in touch either with your class teachers or myself (or Tapestry for our Reception children). Well done to everyone for all your perseverance with this, we know many families are finding it very useful and the children are enjoying seeing the messages and posts from teachers. If you do have safeguarding concerns remember that the local safeguarding systems are still in place and you can always call the Access and Response Team 01454 866000.

We know that home learning is hard. A structure to the day can help but you may need to be flexible. Keep up with the reading - and this may be you reading to your child, such as from the top 100 books. Have a look at the home learning sheets for links to online books. As ever, we will continue to post on our website weekly learning plans (updated to the homework pages by 12 noon every Monday). Remember to be kind to yourselves and that we are here for you. Sometimes it will all seem rather a battle so on those days, relax, take time off, go for a walk and focus on what you are managing to do, not what you have not done.



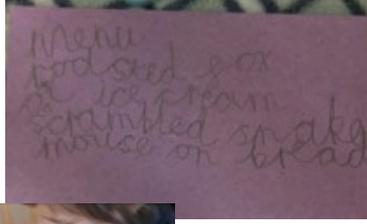
Making and hiding fairy doors in the woods for my friends to find ... (each door has a story)

Seth made fairy doors and hid them in the woods. Look who came and found them!

Robins star of the week is Archie Gorden-Saker for his creativity and working consistently hard. He also showed kindness by setting up a Gruffalo Cafe to share with his younger brother and their toys as well as baking and sharing his Gruffalo cookies.



We have been very impressed with all the gardening and outdoor projects you have been doing. Tobias and Harry made an outdoor classroom and Buddy is making a very professional bug hotel for his grandma's garden. Henry, John and Mason have been busy creating their own gardens. Whilst Sam and Archie have been celebrating all things Gruffalo! Sam made his own Gruffalo, Big Bad Bob. Check out the menu at Archie's Gruffalo café...Does it sound yummy?



Baking continues to be popular and looks tasty. For e.g.: Riley & Cooper have made various dishes including spinach & scrambled eggs; Archie -fresh garlic pesto; Tobias - bread; Olivia and Marcus fudge bats; Charlotte & Bethany amazing cakes! Jack also combined cooking with finding fractions of amounts. Fun & delicious!



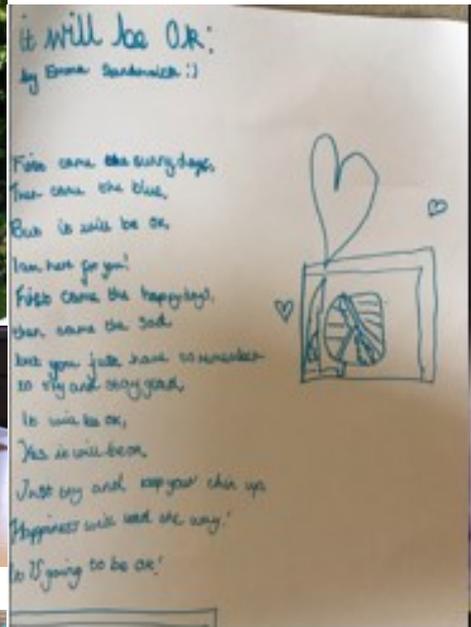
Owls Star of the Week is Ewa. She has been consistently trying hard with her home learning and has continued to read every day. We have been particularly impressed with how she is challenging herself with her maths, learning to solve algebraic equations! Ewa has shown kindness by creating a poster to



It is important to keep well during these strange times and losing yourself in a good book is a wonderful use of time. Check out some of the books Seth recommends (see left).

It has been wonderful to see the acts of kindness our children are showing others. Emma has written a wonderful, inspiring poem for her Grandma that is applicable for us all called 'It will be OK' (see below). Finnley wrote a letter to the elderly; Millie made cards for family she can't see at the moment and many children have made posters to display thanking the incredible NHS.

Swallows Star of the Week is Olivia. This is for showing great perseverance with her reading number stories in maths - which she then applied to some fantastic baking!



We have been delighted with class Owls' DIY lava lamps. Thank you Beth, Riley, Emma and Roshan, we loved seeing your photographs via Class Dojo (and videos). Mia (see right) has made a Time Capsule for this unprecedented time. This will be a useful historical source in the future when we look back on these unusual times.

