



DOWNSEND
SCHOOL



Proud to be nominated in the
**Independent Schools of
the Year 2019 Awards**

DOWNSEND TIMES

03 April 2020

A Message from the Headmaster

The most remarkable term of our time has drawn to a close, yet with so much uncertainty still ahead of us. January and February proceeded as normal, with the usual heady mix of academic and sporting success, musical ventures and trips and visits supporting the routines of daily life. Whilst it is easy to forget that normality amongst the events of the past 3 weeks, it is important to remember that we will return to those times in the months ahead. That said, there remain challenges for us all and it is vital that you are aware that this very special Downsend community will pull together to face them head-on. One of the most prominent of these is to ensure that our remote, online teaching and learning platform continues to develop. There have been many successes in this area, but also some elements that have worked less well, and we recognise this. I am pleased to inform you that we have now completed all of the technical preparations to be able to start the Summer Term with the next phase, our Face 2 Face Programme, up and running and staff have been training this week to ensure that we hit the ground running when we return for the Summer Term.

Downsend will remain open during the Easter break in order to provide Key Worker Care for those parents who are doing such a sterling job on the front line of fighting this virus. We are very proud of you all! This Easter break, like so much of our daily existence, looks likely to be anything but normal. I do hope that everyone gets the chance to take a breath and recharge the batteries. The evidence from our sister schools in Asia is that this move to remote learning does plateau once routines are bottomed out and the various platforms become embedded. Keep well in the weeks ahead – I look forward to more optimistic times ahead starting on 21 April.

Ian Thorpe, Headmaster



Lower School Update

As we move into the Easter holidays, and in the absence of spending real time with your wonderful children, I have had to satisfy myself with looking at their outstanding work instead. Stand out examples have come through to me from Mrs Grimmer, who's class has been working on Tudor houses and Charlie M's, Lauren M's, Sawyer K's and Octavia M's were all particularly wonderful to see. Well done. Year 4 this week have been working on writing scripts and then making videos persuading us to read a book they have just read. Conor I and Hughie H in 4JS made particularly brilliant examples and I spent a very happy time enjoying these from home. Well done to both boys for this fabulous work! Millie H and Charlie R in Year 3 have also been getting creative this week and I loved seeing Charlie's Magnetix construction and Millie's wonderful drawing of Howard House as her 'Happy Place'. How truly wonderful. I look forward to seeing more of this wonderful work and also engaging with the children even more over the Summer Term. Normally at this time in the school year we would be spending time talking about the story of Easter, it was great to see our Year 2 children still looking at this story from home this week and also making great progress on their story mapping skills. Well done to Rory A in 2YdV who produced a clear and detailed story map this week. All children mentioned in Downsends Times this week and last have had five housepoints added to Trackit Lights from me – how wonderful that I am able to award this achievement remotely in this way.

Well done to all of the Lower School children for their hard work and endeavour this week and for completing such a large amount of high quality work. I feel extremely proud of you all.

For those of you looking to keep your children reading over the holidays, the Waterstone's book of the month for this month is [**The Super Miraculous Journey of Freddie Yates**](#). This is 'a blistering blast of funny fiction ideal for fans of Davids **Walliams** and **Solomons**, Jenny Pearson's rollicking debut introduces an endearing new hero on a mission which keeps going awry. Roping in his two best friends on a surreal summer holiday adventure, Freddie is forced to negotiate onion-eating competitions, exploding toilets and the indignity of dressing up as Supergirl. With dynamic, hilarious illustrations by former **Waterstones Children's Book Prize**-winner **Rob Biddulph**, *The Super*

Miraculous Journey of Freddie Yates is a side-splitting treat unafraid to confront real-world issue with immense heart.' It certainly sounds like a superb read and can be downloaded onto e-Readers or ordered for home delivery through book-sellers. If any children do choose to read this throughout the holiday, I would be delighted to read any reviews that the children would like to send through to me.

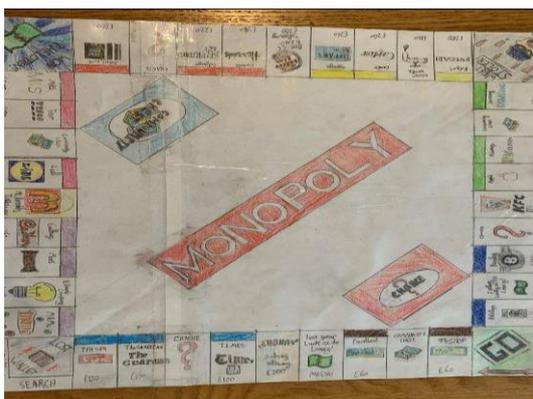
I wish all our Lower School families a very happy and healthy Easter break. I hope that you are all able to enjoy some fresh air and fun over this time and that the sun shines on us all.

Mrs.Kirkham, Head of Lower School

Upper School Update

In my Upper School end of term message today I want to say a huge thank you to our parents, pupils and staff. Parents, you have been so constructive, helpful and positive in your feedback regarding our first 9 days of online teaching, it has really helped us in reviewing our provision for the summer term which will now move to a greater element of live teaching, via the Microsoft TEAMS platform. Working in collaboration with you, we are determined to provide the most productive, enjoyable and practical experience for your children next term, so thank you for all your thoughts, observations and suggestions.

Since our forced closure, our Upper School pupils have been amazing, and we have received videos, Blogs and photographs of fabulous home cooking, creative, artistic pieces and lots of family fun. A big well done to Seb T in Yr. 7, for his brilliant home drawn monopoly board (see images below) and to Arya K, Joseph C and Aiden M who have been awarded Silver colours by Mrs Vanstone for their incredible public speaking run to the Regional Finals of the Rotary Public Speaking competition.



Also, a huge well done to the girls U 13 netball team, who won the regional IAPS competition and were runners up in the Cranleigh tournament, losing only one regular fixture all season. To recognise that achievement, Miss Sievwright has awarded half colours to Olivia B and Bijou C-S, and full colours to Elizabeth H, Natasha C, Mia K, Chloe M, Gracie N, Evie S and Alexa E-M. Well done on a fabulous season girls and to all our Upper School pupils for their academic progress, creativity and collaboration this term. It is clear that one of the key challenges facing us all during the forced school closure period, is retaining a sense of community and teamwork, something that has been such a key part of the success of

Downsend over the years. The TEAMS platform will allow us to bring that to life after the Easter break, both in morning form time and through 'live' lessons. However, on behalf of our pupils and parents, I must say a huge well done to our staff for their hard work and commitment over the last 9 days of school closure, to provide learning opportunities and form time camaraderie through a medium that none of them trained for. As a community, we will continue to improve this provision, so thank you again to all our parents, pupils and teachers for working together to ensure the best educational outcomes in recent days and into the next term.

In my end of term assembly this morning I mentioned that, sadly, none of us will be whizzing off to the Alps or Barbados this Easter. However, I do hope that this affords you all time to relax and enjoy the company of your families, and that all of you, and your extended families, remain healthy and safe in the weeks ahead. We look forwards to 'seeing' you again on the 21st of April!

Karl Newland, Head of Upper School

Mindfulness at Home



With the unprecedented times we find ourselves in, trying to shield the children from as much of this as possible can be tricky. The concern is how to support, so that we can lessen feelings of anxiety and worry. As we know, having a strong sense of well-being helps to develop resilience and below are some suggestions of what we can do to help.

1 "JUST ONE BREATH" BREATHING ACTIVITY

- Find a relaxing place, sit comfortably, and set a timer for one minute.
- Breathe deeply in and out while paying attention to any sensations you notice or sounds you hear.
- Take another slow deep breath, imagine the air moving down into the lungs and back up.
- Take one more deep breath and hold for a moment, then release it.

2 CREATE A GLITTER JAR

- Finding a jar or plastic bottle and allow your child to decorate it however they like.
- Fill the bottle up 3/4 of the way with water. Next, add clear glue, food coloring, and glitter then shake.
- Seal the lid and you are ready to go.

3 HEARTBEAT EXERCISE

- Ask your child to stand up and either jump up and down or do jumping jacks for one minute.
- At the end of that minute, have them place their hand on their heart and pay attention to how their heartbeat and their breathing feels.

4 GOING ON A SAFARI

- Go outside on an exciting adventure, try picking up a small rock or touching a plant or flower.
- Notice the bugs or the birds. Take a moment to kneel down and touch the earth.
- Walk mindfully paying close attention to everything. Make sure you walk in silence because you want to notice all those little details.

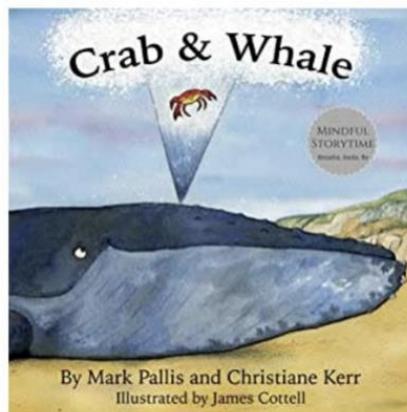
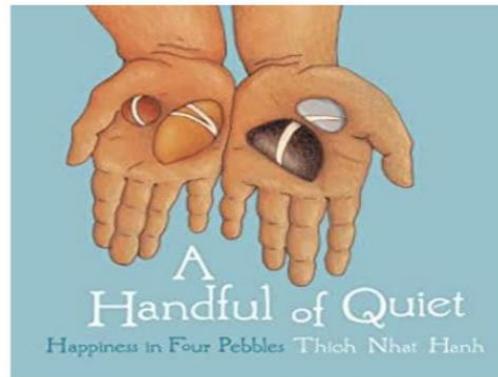
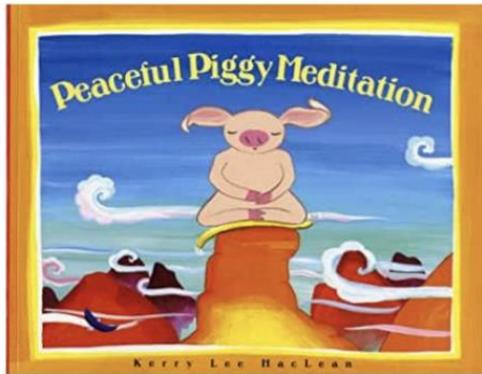
 

5 TENSE AND RELEASE MUSCLE RELAXATION

- Starting at the feet, gently squeeze the muscles in the feet by tightening them, then slowly releasing.
- Next, squeeze the large muscles in the calves for 5 seconds, then gently release. Working your way up the body, squeeze the thigh muscles for 5 seconds then gently release.
- Continue moving up the body for more relaxation.

I also have the following books that I would like to recommend. The first one 'Peaceful Piggy Meditation' is how piggies find peace by meditating, of course. If you enjoy this there is also 'Peaceful Piggy Yoga' too. In 'A Handful of Quiet', the author finds an interesting way of introducing children to meditation using pebbles. Lastly, 'Crab and Whale' introduces children subtly to mindfulness within the story.



I recently read a fantastic article about coping with the new normal. We are used to life staying pretty much the same. That has changed with Coronavirus; and we are all having to get used to life being very different – a 'new normal'! This article recommends doing 'CALM' and that this is a way we can help everyone to get used to it more quickly and help everyone to feel less worried generally.

CALM stands for:

- **C** – Create new routine
- **A** – Ask a grown up
- **L** – Lovely activities
- **M** – Making the most of it

I have really enjoyed seeing rainbows in the windows of houses when I go on my walks with Pippin and it is a lovely way of staying connected and hopeful.

Helen Black, Deputy Head of Lower School

Science News

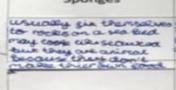
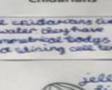
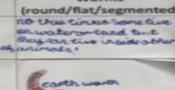
There has been some fantastic work over these 2 weeks, amongst all the change we have all had to accommodate. I thought I would share some of the amazing work in Science this fortnight:

Reuben and Spencer working with others in the family on a classification task - great collaboration.



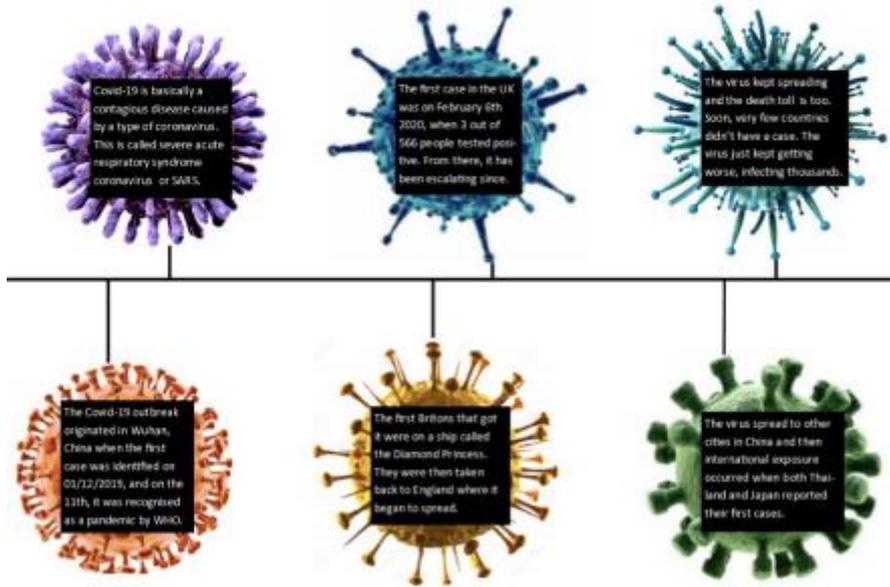
Creativity - Classification of Invertebrates completed imaginatively (Erika Simpson and James Robinson):

Arthropods	Echinoderms	Molluscs
		
Arthropods form the phylum <u>Euarthropoda</u> , which includes insects, arachnids, myriapods, and crustaceans. <u>Arthropods are characterized by their jointed limbs and cuticle made of chitin, often mineralised with calcium carbonate.</u> The arthropod body plan consists of segments, each with a pair of appendages.	Phylum Echinodermata. Echinoderms are invertebrates that have pentaradial symmetry, a spiny skin, a water vascular system, and a simple nervous system.	Mollusk, also spelled mollusc, any soft-bodied invertebrate of the phylum Mollusca, usually wholly or partly enclosed in a calcium carbonate shell secreted by a soft mantle covering the body.

Classification of Invertebrates		
Arthropods Found on land, oceans and fresh water. Arthropods are the most diverse group of animals. All arthropods have segmented bodies. Most arthropods have legs.  dragonfly butterfly	Echinoderms Found only in the ocean. Most have arms or legs from the center of the body.  Starfish	Molluscs One main part to their body. All have one muscle foot for burrowing. No hard shell.  snail squid
Sponges Usually six thousand for miles on a sea bed. They come in all shapes and sizes. They are called sponges.  Sea sponge	Cnidarians Use cells to sting. They have symmetrical bodies and stinging cells.  jellyfish	Worms (round/flat/segmented) No legs. Some live in water. Some live on land. They are called worms.  earthworm leech

Critical Thinking about Covid-19 by the Scholars (Safa, Chloe and Marcus)

CORONAVIRUS TIMELINE



Covid 19 - Timeline by Chloe M.

<p>The World Health Organization (WHO) was first alerted to several cases of pneumonia in Wuhan.</p>	<p>The exact strain, a new type of coronavirus was identified, and initially named 2019-nCoV.</p>	<p>Japan reported its first case, also in a person who had visited Wuhan.</p>	<p>The first instance of a person transmitting COVID-19 to another person while in the United States was reported in Chicago, Illinois.</p>	<p>The first cases are reported in the UK when two members of the same family, a University of York student tests positive for the virus.</p>	
Dec 31	Jan 7	Jan 15	Jan 30	Jan 31	
<p>According to the first WHO situation report on the coronavirus disease, the cases of pneumonia had no known cause, and totaled 44.</p>	<p>Thailand reported its first case of COVID-19. The infected individual had traveled there from Wuhan.</p>	<p>Washington State reported the first case of the new coronavirus in the United States in a man who had returned from Wuhan, China.</p>	<p>A situation report listing 9,826 confirmed cases globally, COVID-19 confirmed "a public health emergency of international concern." At this time, 19 countries outside of China were affected.</p>	<p>The Philippines reported the first COVID-19 related death, marking the first fatality outside of China.</p>	
Jan 3	Jan 13	Jan 21	Jan 31	Feb 2	

Have a lovely and restful Easter.

Dr Kirby

Our delightful children have been demonstrating critical thinking and creativity whilst implementing their tasks for this week. In Maths they have been busy measuring different objects around their houses and gardens in centimetres and meters. They also compared the lengths of different objects using key language, as well as, the 'greater than' and 'less than' symbols.

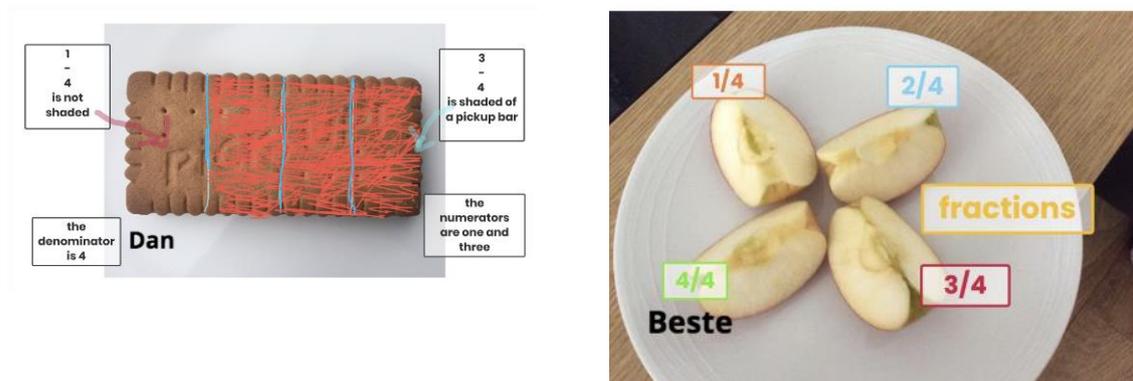
Many have joined in the 30-day Lego Challenge, taking their Lego building time in a new direction. Whilst providing structure, these tasks are open-ended allowing the children to generate unique and innovative creations. Here are some outstanding examples of their work, pure brilliance!

The Year 2 Team

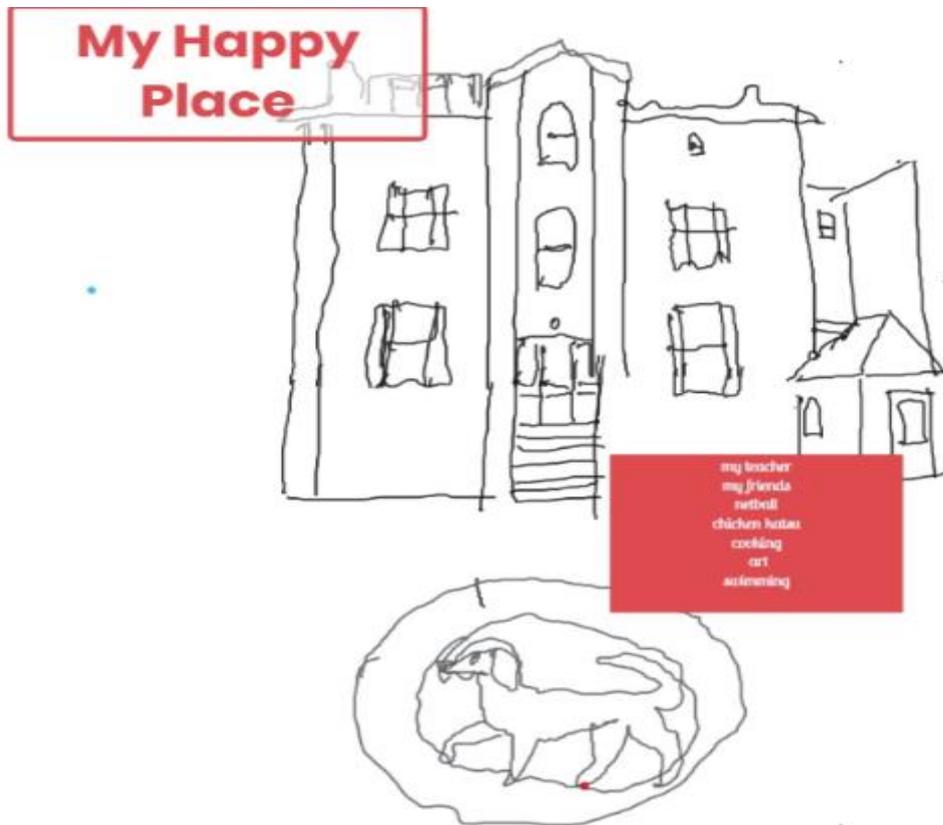


Year 3 News

Year 3 have been learning about fractions. The children were challenged to take a picture of some of their food, divide it into equal parts and then annotate their pictures.



In PSHE children had to draw a picture of their happy place. Millie in 3ST drew a lovely picture of our Howard House and she has mentioned that she's missing the teachers, her friends and Katsu Curry! We are missing you all too.

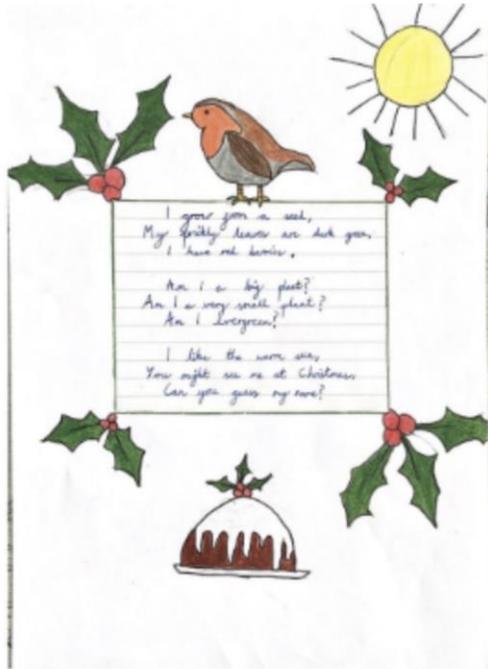


Year 3 Team

Year 5 News

Some lovely examples of work in Year 5 this week. Bella's Haiku poem, Maria's Tom Gates themed drawing, Benji's Tudor house and Alex has been busy multiplying fractions by the whole numbers.

Year 5 Team



Multiplying Fractions by whole numbers

Method #1 Repeated Addition

$$\frac{1}{3} \times 2 = \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3} = \frac{2}{3}$$

turn $\frac{1}{3}$ into $\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3}$
Then add the top and change the bottom

Method #2 Draw a visual

$$\frac{1}{3} \times 2$$

turn it into mixed #

$$= \frac{2}{3}$$

Method #3 Traditional Algorithm

$$\frac{1}{3} \times 2 = \frac{1}{3} \times \frac{2}{1}$$

you x the top number by the bottom Number E.g. $2 \times 1 = 2$

⊗ X them straight across and get your answer E.g. $1 \times 2 = 2$

I didn't know what to do after school yesterday so I tried to do

TOM GATES themed drawing except me instead of him and it was lots of fun and it also kept me entertained for 3 hours without me going on a screen which I think is pretty good!

without colour...



Music News

Plato said:

Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything.

Many of our pupils are continuing their music-making at home. Perhaps you've been playing your instrument too – send a photo to nicole.allison@downsend.co.uk if you would like to be included in the next music-making collage. We would especially love to see all those Year 3 pupils who have been learning flute / trumpet/ violin /clarinet /cello practising what they have been taught so far.

Nicole Allison



Building Site News

With all that is happening presently to us as far as COVID-19 is concerned, we have some good news to share with you. The building project has reached a milestone today in that a significant amount of concrete has been poured by Armfield which forms the ground floor slab for our new Performing Arts Centre. Permission for the project to continue was communicated earlier this week by a senior government minister although Armfield are obliged to continue their safe working practices which include following the guidance on maintaining social distancing protocols. With the school being closed for the time being we are hoping that the builders can make good progress without hindrance, but this will be subject to the availability of resources/materials they require to continue the project. We will continue to keep you updated with developments’.

Craig Simmons, Business Manager





Instrumental Lessons at Downsend

We Have Vacancies!!

If your child would like to learn an instrument at Downsend with one of our tutors then please email the Head of Music at nicole.allison@downsend.co.uk

Library News

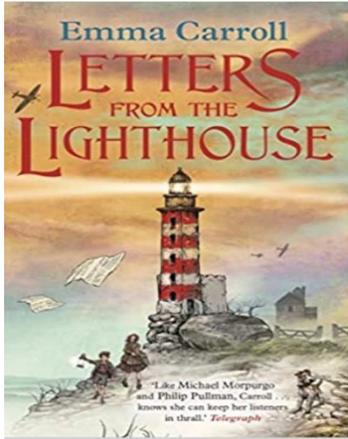
Dear Parents,

This is a strange and unusual period that everyone will remember. Making time to do special things together is so important for our children right now. Reading books together and sharing stories are great examples.

If they have read everything on their bookcase, think about the books you loved as a child and get them to try them out. <https://worldbook.kitaboo.com/reader/worldbook/index.html>... is a website offering free children's e-books for the time being. Audible has a library full of children's audio books for those who prefer to listen. Stephen Fry reading Harry Potter is the most popular choice in the Lower School Library.

Robyn Temlett, School Librarian

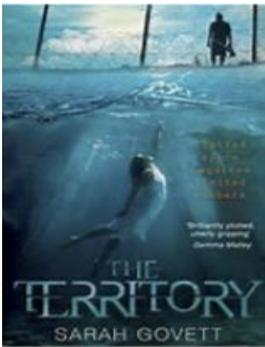
Book of the week in the Lower School Library:



Letters from the Lighthouse by Emily Carroll

This gripping read for anyone aged 7 or over is a pertinent reminder of how the effort of a group of individuals can shine light on the darkest of nights. It is February 1941 and Olive has been evacuated to the Devon coast with her little brother, Cliff. At first, they feel unwelcome but once they move into the Lighthouse with the Keeper, Mr Ephraim, an exciting adventure begins as Olive tries to solve a coded letter left by her missing elder sister, Sukie.

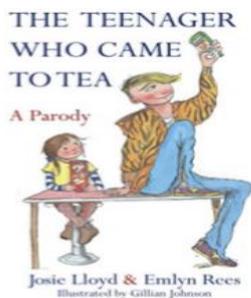
Book of the week in the LRC:



The Territory by Sarah Govett

Noa lives in what's left of a Britain where flooding means land is scarce. Everyone must sit an exam at 15: if you pass you can stay in the Territory, if you fail you must go to the Wetlands. This is the first in a series three books that is proving to be very popular with both teens and their parents. Definitely something I will be buying for the LRC upon our return.

Something for the parents:



This book provides a much-needed giggle while we spend all this time together!

Artist of The Week

Another week and another inbox full of amazing artwork! It's been great to see so many of you getting creative and enjoying a little escape at this challenging time. A couple of pupils I've been particularly impressed with are Louis N in Year 5 for his beautiful acrylic study of a sunflower, and Rhianna P in Year 8 for her vibrant painting! Well done!

Julia Ayles, Head of Art



Message to Parents:

We would like to keep in touch with all of you, we will be active on all our social media channels and would love you to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube. Here are the links:



Have you seen our end of term video message that we produced for you? Just in case you didn't yet, here's the link to it:

[End of term video](#)

We hope you'll like it.
Have a healthy, lovely and calm Easter break.

INSPIRING YOUNG MINDS

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