



The Downsend Times

26th June 2020

Message from The Head

This week, we welcomed Year 3 pupils on site, with 90% of the Year group joining their teachers for a week of collaboration and celebration. The weather ensured that this was conducted in glorious sunshine and Year 4 will be hoping for a repeat when they join us next week. In the final week of term, with the easing of lockdown measures coming into effect from 4 July, the reduction of social distancing to 1m has meant that we can welcome more pupils on site, and we look forward to seeing Years 5-8 bid farewell to this most remarkable of Summer Terms. Here at Downsend, we remain committed to applying the regulations in a sensible and responsible manner; those of you who saw the images at Bournemouth Beach and Anfield (Liverpool FC) yesterday will be all too aware of the dangers of being flippant about the application of the guidance. Thank you for your support and patience as we try and do the right thing for all our families. Thank you to those of you who have filled in the short parent survey, sent to parents in Years 2, 3 and 6 earlier this week, to offer feedback on the issue of re-opening.



As an independent school parent myself, I am all too aware of the challenges that lockdown has posed us, as parents, as we look to juggle working from home with online learning and wider wellbeing support for our children. Part of this involves ensuring that we look after ourselves and recognise the impact of those challenges on us. I was interested, therefore, to listen to this radio interview with former Downsend parent, Julia Philpott, who appeared on BBC Radio Surrey to offer some advice to parents trying to negotiate these strange times. There is a link to the 8-minute recording [here](#). I hope that you find the advice offered within useful.

Ian Thorpe

Lower School Update

Year 3 brought the sunshine with them this week as they skipped happily back through the Turret door on Monday. Delighted about seeing friends and teachers, they were quickly back in the swing of school and loving every minute. It has been terrific to see them and to have their lovely energy and happy chatter back in school. The Year 3 teachers, teaching assistants and I have so enjoyed the week. A huge thank you to the team for giving them such a fun time and to Year 3 parents for all their support in the process.

Academic congratulations this week have continued to come to me, despite the upturn in time quite rightly spent outside in gardens and paddling pools. Well done to Maria B for her wonderfully positive poster about what she has enjoyed during lockdown. This is an inspirational way of thinking about a tough time in all our lives. Well done, Maria!



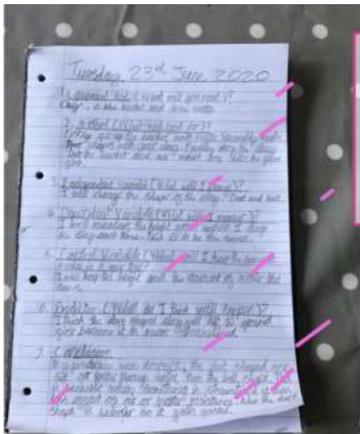
Well done too to ArchieArchie D and Riley N in Year 5 for their wonderful work this week in Science. Their investigation planning and accurate predictions were fantastic. Great job!

Year 5 Water Resistance Investigation

Task: Design an experiment to test which shape will drop quickest through the water.

- Equipment** (what will you need?)
two clear jugs, water, clay x2 must be same weight
- Method** (what will you do?)
make two shapes and drop them in the water at the same time measure what moves through water the fastest
- Independent Variable** (What will you change?)
the shapes of the clay
- Dependent Variable** (what will you measure?)
the time it takes to travel to the bottom
- Control Variable** (what will you keep the same to make it a fair test?)
the weight of the clay and the amount of water
- Prediction** (what do you think will happen?)
more streamline shapes will go faster

Excellent, Riley!



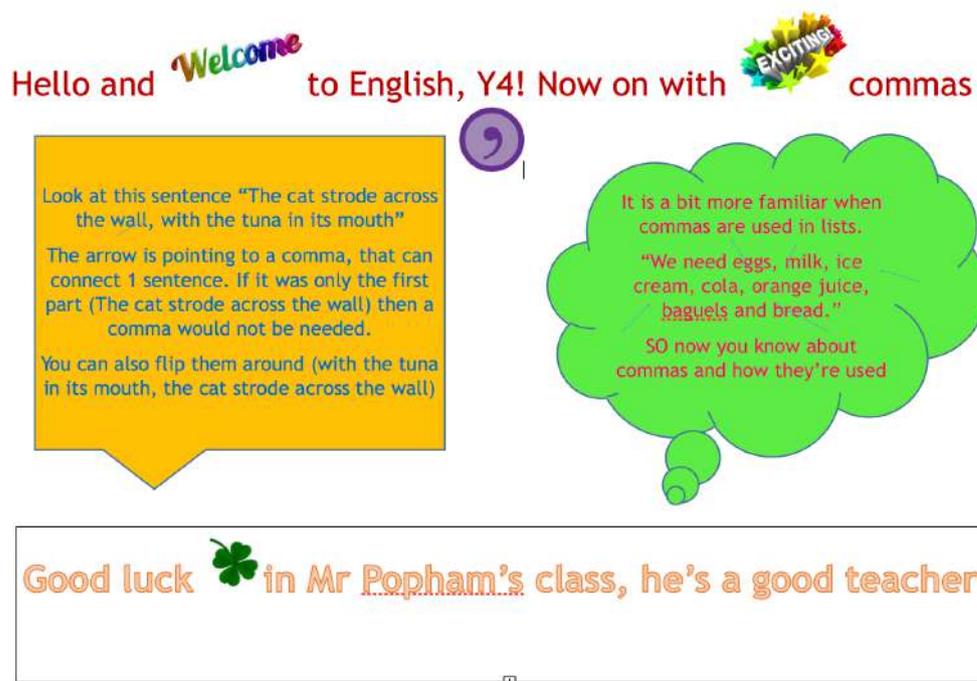
Super! A fantastic, well explained conclusion.



Archie D

Lower School Update

George D Year 4 also did great work this week, making a poster about what children can expect to learn in English in Year 4. I'm sure that the current Year 3 children will find this very useful, George. Well done.



I also want to extend congratulations to Arabella B in Year 3 who, despite lockdown, worked extremely hard and sat her Grade 2 violin exam over Zoom! She followed the proper format including pieces, scales, sight reading and aural and was awarded a distinction based on the ABRSM marking sheet. Well done, Arabella. This show tremendous dedication, courage and tenacity – fantastic!

I was thrilled this week to see how much all of the children enjoyed their first ever virtual 'Meet the teacher' session. Whilst it was certainly a different way of doing things than in previous years, the excitement amongst the staff about meeting their new classes was absolutely mirrored by the excitement amongst the children. Work is now fully underway in planning and preparing for September with the hope that changes to government guidelines will enable us to welcome everyone back for the new academic year. I felt especially proud of the children moving into 3AW and 5TP as both Miss Winn and Mr Pearne, who are new to Downsend, contacted me to say how sparky and well-mannered the children were. We know this already, but it was great to hear this from teachers who are new to our lovely community! Well done. I am very much looking forward to seeing Year 4 next week and hope that you all have a super weekend.

Upper School Update

I was delighted to write to all Upper School pupils this week to confirm that we will be inviting them back to school for the last week of term. This will, I think, be quite an emotional week after more than 3 months of online learning since the lockdown started on March 20th. Therefore, next week will see the last of our live teaching lessons via MS Teams, and the timetable for the final week is packed full of fun and creative challenges designed to create a friendly competition between the various form and year group bubbles before we announce the winners on the final Friday of term, Friday 10th July.

The pupils have been aware of this of course, and so have thrown themselves into their online lessons with their normal gusto this week, and I have been impressed again with the stamina and enthusiasm demonstrated across the Upper School. For example, in Y7 this week Miss Black and the pupils have been investigating the mystery surrounding the disappearance of the Princes in the Tower of London in 1483. The children had to analyse the character and motives of the key characters who could have been involved and then create a poster of their chief suspect. Miss Black had some outstanding work submitted, but this is a particularly wonderful example from Arya K. Well done Arya!



In Religious Studies, Mrs Graham has been so pleased with the children who volunteered to present their RS presentations over the past few weeks. The standard of the power points themselves, and the confident manner in which they have actually delivered their slide shows has been exceptional, they are to be congratulated and the following have been awarded subject commendations: Anita B, Emerson N, Jasmine C, Oliver F, Sam M and Natasha C in 8XYZ and Noah B-W, Chloe M, Lizzie H, Marcus H, Safa A and Josie D in 8S. Well done to those pupils for outstanding work.

Mrs Dinnage has continued to teach her History lessons to the whole of year 6 and she was very pleased with George C, Ben L and Louis S, all of whom produced some fabulous research on three aspects of life in the 1950s. This is a sign of how much our pupils have improved and engaged with independent learning, and I do hope this continues in September when we return. Well done boys!

This week Year 6 have been fully engrossed in some interesting and challenging tasks. They have been completing bio's for the Downsend House Time Capsule's which will be buried in the school Wellbeing Garden at the end of term. Their bio needed to talk about themselves their likes and dislikes and their hopes for the future. In History they have been looking at the 1970's and the corridor at school was filled with the sounds of Queen – We Will Rock You, They looked the first video games developed in 1972 by Atari, and actually how basic it was. In Geography they climbed Everest finding out the interesting facts on tourism. In French they watched an amazing 360degree tour of Paris. Many of them seeing for the first time the view from the top of the Eiffel Tower. In English they have been writing a graphic novel using only images, speech and thought bubbles. They have thoroughly enjoyed developing their plots and presenting their stories in a different medium to writing. We have discussed Social Media and how it can be used in a positive way through Social Media Campaigns, researching for themselves campaigns and the change they are trying to bring about. All this to the accompaniment of the Periodic Table song which they listened to in science. In all another fully packed with variety and interest which demonstrates the creativity of our talented staff.

Upper School Update

Mrs Mercer reports that: “Year 7 have continued to impress with their perseverance and diligence during this past week, especially to try and get all outstanding pieces of work completed in order to end the year well. Their teachers can see them melting on screen as the temperatures rise but it’s been lovely to see some of them manage to get in the garden whilst participating in their lessons! We are all excited to be coming back to school for our final week of Year 7 together and are busy sorting out all this entails. More congratulations to those who are still motoring through their Headmaster’s Commendations, the latest to be awarded their 900 housepoints are brothers, Louis and Jayden, Olivia H has achieved 600 housepoints, and Darius has reached the dizzying heights of 1200 housepoints; very well done indeed to all of you! Please don’t forget to email your child’s form tutor as soon as possible with their lockdown photo for our final montage – landscape if possible!”

Similarly I know that Mr Silva has been really pleased with Year 8 and reports that: “Following on from last week’s ‘Meet the Tutor’ meeting, pupils were buzzing with excitement at the thought of moving into Year 9 and how the school might look then. They thoroughly enjoyed meeting their new tutors as well as being given an overview of the year by their new Head of Year 9, Mrs Hawes. It has been back to business as usual for this week as pupils have been going through the feedback for their final few assessments from last week; I have been encouraged by their scores, particularly given the current circumstances, and pupils should be pleased that they have continued to make good academic progress throughout the summer term.

It has been amazing seeing some of the creativity of our Year 8 pupils coming through this period of online learning – pupils in 8S have put together some of their own Escape Rooms in Science, which the rest of the year group have attempted, and in Maths they have been designing their own home learning space using scale, decimals and budgets. Mrs Mercer has shared with me some outstanding work that she had received. Well done to everyone! Pupils have also been earning plenty of House points this week and we have two more pupils who have achieved their Gold Headmaster’s Commendations for 900 House points - well done to Jude G and Amelie M. There are lots of you who are very close to your next commendation, so let’s see if we can have a big push so that they can be announced next week”.

I also wanted to mention five children who have helped ‘lead’ the Year 6 live GL fitness and Mrs Hawes’ Yoga sessions this week. Trainers of the week awards go to Lily B, Martha G and Ned S who followed Mr Lawrence seamlessly to ensure that 35 Year 6 pupils had a great work out (full of wall sits and press-ups) on both Monday and Thursday mornings, as well as Aizere Z and Chloe S who showed great suppleness, balance and control when leading the Yoga sessions on Tuesday and Friday. Thanks to all of those pupils for being such great sports!

I have spent the last two days proof reading the Year 6,7 & 8 end of term reports, which capture both the pupils’ engagement in their online learning programme, as well as their attainment in the core subjects and languages. In addition, the tutors have written a summary comment for each child, and these reports will be sent to you electronically next week by the administration team, I hope you find them useful, and that assist in outlining the next steps for your children to focus on next year.

So, as we enter the last full week of online teaching and learning, may I wish you all a happy and safe weekend.

Mr Newland, Head of Upper School

Enrichment & House Challenges

This week we have had the pleasure of the Year 3's back at school. Witnessing them engaging in the variety of live exercises and activities that the Year 3 teachers have created for them has been a joy to watch. Along with these, the Year 3's have challenged themselves in the 'Downsend Mile' as part of their enrichment and competed brilliantly against each other's bubbles. During a week where the weather has been very kind to us, their commitment and determination to score points for their bubbles has been amazing to watch. Clearly so many of our Year 3's have been enjoying early morning fitness with Mr Lawrence and yoga with Mrs Hawes, keeping themselves exceptionally fit during the strange times. The Year 6's continue to enjoy their new array of enrichment slots in the afternoon, although the activity on Wednesday afternoon they most enjoyed was to find the shade! When comparing the Year 3's to Year 6's on the Downsend mile..... maybe the weather got the better of the Year 6's!

As restrictions continue to ease, it's been lovely to watch the children play more team related activities during these enrichment slots and during break times.

Whatever the challenges Downsend pupils continue to find ways to excel in their extra curricular activities. This week it has great see a virtual karate lesson in action and our amazing musicians pull together to produce an outstanding performance of 'Rondeau by Purcell'



With the heat and the end of term looming motivation as always starts to wane, however seeing more smiling faces with each week that passes I continue to be so impressed with not only our staff, but your children's attitude and approach to school life.

Mr Albert Assistant Head (Enrichment)

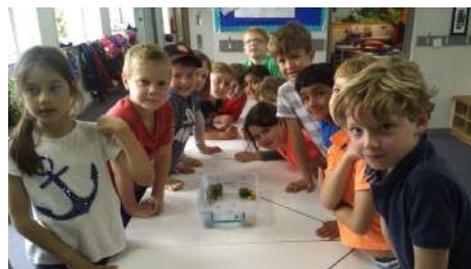
Year 2 News

A fun week of learning and time with friends.

The week of 15th June, both the Year 2 teachers and children spent the week in school interacting with their peers and participating in practical learning. We started the week with a snail enquiry to determine what the snails preferred food choice was, we established the snails loved the clover and cucumber best. Then we enjoyed the amusing antics of Penny Dreadful and the school pet rat, Rodney (a story from the book 'Penny Dreadful is a Complete Catastrophe!'), we wrote character descriptions and did vocabulary work. Later in the week we built towers using different materials in our STEAM problem solving activity to find the strongest structure for our castles.

Finally, to round off the week we were joined by kings, queens, squires, princesses, jesters, princes and knights for a celebratory Medieval banquet! We were so grateful to spend this time together and had an amazing week, as it was wonderful to see each other again. This week online learning continued, and the children were equally as brilliant as last week.

The Year 2 Team



Year 3 News

We have had a simply wonderful week back at school and the weather couldn't have been better! It was a complete delight to welcome the children back after such a long time and we have loved seeing each and every one of them and catching up on all their news. The children have loved being reunited with their friends and it has been such a happy week for all involved. Our English and Maths theme of 'George's Marvellous Medicine' has been great fun and the children have enjoyed designing their own awful recipes to cure Grandma of her grumpiness, as well as mixing their own medicines and watching them magically change colour before their eyes in Maths, writing descriptively about what



would happen to Grandma after she had taken the medicine, designing their own labels and warning notices for their medicines and, finally, cracking some tricky codes to find out some of the terrible ingredients in George's concoction! As well as this, the children have been exploring the wellness garden, picking their own vegetables, bug hunting, going on nature scavenger hunts around the school grounds, making their own natural wind mobiles and painting their own stones to replicate mini beasts. Some wonderful artwork has also been produced and we have had a thoroughly wonderful week! We are all so sad that it is now over, but are so grateful for all the marvellous memories that have been created. It was a lovely way to end our year together, well done, Year 3!



Year 4 News

Yet again this week Year 4 have amazed us with their hard work, enthusiasm and resilience! They thoroughly enjoyed meeting their new teachers on Tuesday afternoon and had lots to tell us about how exciting Year 5 is going to be!

The standard of work from home has remained impressive, here are some of our favourites:

Finley in 4RD made an awesome poster all about Brazil in Geography, speaking to his auntie to gain an insight into the country



Year 4 designed coats of arms for their study of two contrasting localities, in Geography. Special mention must go to Isabella C and Elin C in 4RD. Also very well done to Leo R, Izzy E and Tayla S in 4EF, Kaila K in 4JS, George G in 4MP and Tileena T and Caiden G in 4RD. They also produced amazing posters about Taupo, in New Zealand. Special mention to Raffaella P in 4MP. Also very well done to Hughie H and Euan J in 4JS and Amy J in 4MP.



Raffaella 4MP,
Taupo poster

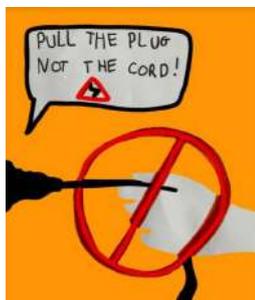


Isabella 4RD,
Coat of Arms



Elin 4RD,
Coat of Arms

Special mentions for Samuel Berryman, Billy Maylin 4MP and Mia Kelly 4EF who produced excellent English work this week when creating recipes and writing instructions for a new confectionery for Willy Wonka's factory. Mrs Dinnage identified that Year have been working very well during online learning and that Gregor D, Tayla S, Leo R, Bertie and George G have produced some great pieces of work. Well done!!



4JS have created some wonderful posters to highlight the possible dangers that can be caused by electricity if it is not used sensibly. Well done Hughie, Euan, Jessica and Oliver for posters full of information and with a clear message. In 4EF, special mention goes to Izzy, Tayla, Rafferty, Lily, Annabel and George D for some super posters

Mrs Dinnage has been so impressed with RS work on Seesaw from the following children: Baylen, Caiden, Elin, Edward, Finley and Isabella, all in 4RD. Well done to you all.

Year 4 Team

Year 5 News

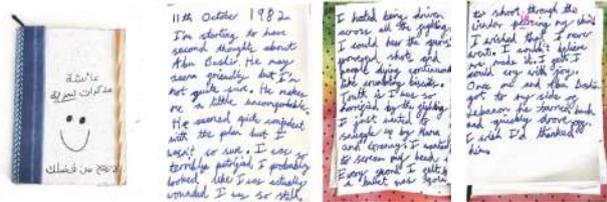


Year 5 enjoyed making and writing Ayesha's diary based on an extract from Oranges In No Man's Land.

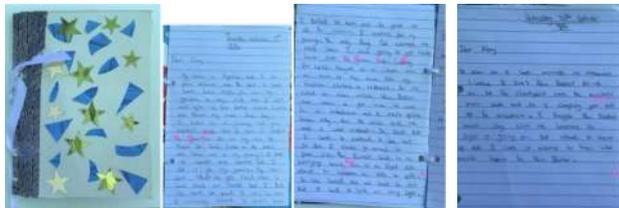
As you can see, the children have been very creative and each design is unique and original.



Robin C



Bella T



Francesca W

Year 5 have been looking back at their year and have designed some lovely "Year 5 in Review" posters. Lovely to hear the children have enjoyed the year and a great opportunity to reminisce about good times!



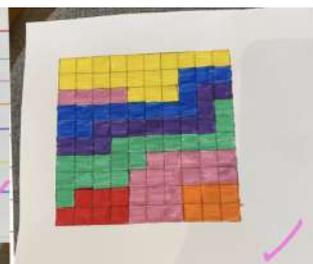
Stephania O



Horatio M

Year 5 enjoyed being creative in Maths this week to round off their fraction and decimal topic.; their designs were very very attractive and eye catching.

Red	7	0.07
Green	17	0.17
Pink	22	0.22
Orange	26	0.26
Purple	31	0.31
Yellow	36	0.36
Blue	41	0.41



Natalia



Elliot



Bella

Year 5 are also looking back at their year and celebrating and inspiring each other. Here are some words of wisdom which may inspire you!

Year 5 News

Some special mentions must go to Sophie M, Joe C and Tommy G, in 5AG, for their consistent hard work and positive approach to their PSHE, this term. Very well done!



Sophie M



Joe C

The SPORT SLIPS

**All of your sports bloopers
all in one place.**
<https://thesportslips.co.uk>

**It will unite
Downsend
School in
laughter
and pain.**

**Please surprise
us with amusing,
wacky (and
hopefully not so
painful (not)]
clips.**

If you are looking at a newspaper, this is not for you. BUT... if you are a sports sensation or a LOL, never this is like your inner spirit emerging from your soul and saying "It is your destiny."

It's simple. All you have to do is post a video of you doing an hilarious sporting accident like in boxing when you accidentally punch the referee or in Golf when you accidentally let go of the club in the last second and it lands in the water.

Tommy G

In History, the children have been creating Wanted posters linked with the Gunpowder plot.



George H



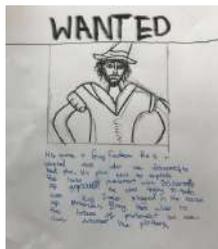
Ava C, 5LC



Lauren LQ, 5LC



Joe C

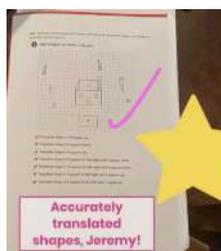


Stephania



Isaac N

In Maths, we gave been reflecting and translating objects and have been solving word problems.



Jeremy D, 5LC

Problems of the Day 2020

1. The table shows the ages of people in a theme park.

Age	Number of people
Under 18	120
18 - 40	78
Over 40	32

These are the entry costs.

How much money did the theme park make from entry costs?

£2846

Given that

$\triangle + \star + \star = 100$

$\heartsuit + \heartsuit + \triangle + \star = 78$

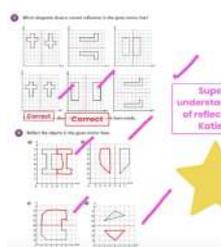
Work out the value of the \heartsuit .

2. What are the missing numbers?

$42 \div 10 = 42$

$420 \div 10 = 42$

Freyja BW, 5LC



Katie C, 5LC

Problems of the Day 2020

1. There are 25 children in a class. The bar chart shows the number of children in the class who walk to school each day.

2. Order the following numbers. Start with the smallest.

$3\frac{1}{2}, \frac{18}{5}, 3\frac{1}{4}, 3\frac{1}{5}$

(a) $(13-25) \times 100 \div 0.52 \times 100 = 52$

On Thursday the percentage of the class walked to school is 52%

(b) I think it rained on Wednesday, because there were only 5 people that walked to school, whereas every other day it is at least over 10 pupils.

Stefan J, 5LC

Sport News

Downsend Daily Mile Update – Week 3 (18-24 June)

So, did we make it to the Cognita International school in Zurich, Switzerland? We carried over **148.44** miles from last week and needed **591** miles to reach Zurich and ran/cycled/walked **540.84** miles this week. The answer is a resounding YES with ease, and we will be carrying over **98.28** miles into our final challenge to get to the British School of Barcelona (**660** miles). The question is, will we decide to stay in Barcelona or make our way back to Leatherhead? Well done and a huge thank you to everyone taking part in the challenge. It is absolutely amazing that we are clocking up so many miles each week and continuing to do so. The heat over the last few days didn't stop us, possible thunderstorms over the weekend may have an impact but next week will be warm and dry again so let's get outside every day, run, walk, cycle, get your whole family involved and see if we can travel the **562** miles to Barcelona.

Good luck.

Mrs Fitch

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
Y2/3	35.89	28.47	29.1		
Y4/5	214.6	166.9	134.4		
Y6,7,8	81.95	64.85	43.84		
Staff	146.96	146.55	108.9		
Parents		207.59	225.6		
	479.4	614.4	540.84	?	?

Online PE/Games lessons

This week has seen some brilliant participation across the lower school getting involved in the National Chance to Shine cricket challenges. It launched on Monday with Mark Wood, England and Durham fast bowler, with a Strictly Come Catching challenge and the year 4's loved it sending in some great videos of their best dance move whilst catching a ball!



Tuesday saw Michael Vaughan launch the Last Batter Stands using a piece of rhubarb as a bat!

Wednesday, Charlotte Edwards former England Cricket captain, launched the crick- fitness for batting which I am hoping the Upper school pupils have tried.

Thursday saw the current England female cricket captain, Heather Knight, set the bowling challenge and I know that many year 5's were out practicing in the heat yesterday afternoon trying to hit a teabag off the stumps!

Sport News

Today is an all rounder challenge set by Sam Billings, the Kent and England batsman. To access all the challenges please head to the following website.

[Chance to Shine - challenge](#)

It would be fantastic to get as many pupils involved so please send us / upload your videos in to your child's year TEAMS folder.

Some well-deserved mentions so far for their dance moves:

Year 4 – Hughie H; Harriet H; George G; Finley M; Amy J; Edward V

Year 5 – Francesca W and Natalia B.

And a special mention to George and Austin W who gave myself, Miss Seivewright and some of the US pupils a live demonstration of a cricket target throwing challenge set by year 8 pupil Oliver F.

5 house points have been awarded to you all. Well done and thank you for continuing to get involved.

Mrs Fitch

Arts News

We've been inundated with so much wonderful art over the last few weeks, that these fantastic creations from Year 2 and Year 3 got missed! But these pupils definitely deserve Artist of the Week for their colourful 'dancing' figures, based on the work of Keith Haring.

Well done Edward C, Beste D, Francesca B, Grace A and Max A!



Grace A



Edward C



Francesca B



Max A



Beste

Science News

Please find another thrilling Escape Room designed by Year 8 – The Tower of London Escape Room

[Tower Of London](#)

Good luck!



Well done and thank you to Josie, Alex T, Noah, Dan, Chloe, Safa, Jack M, Marcus, Lizzy for thinking outside the box with these brilliant digital Escape Rooms! The rest of Year 8 are also embarking on Web Quests, Escape Rooms, and various other challenges this week linked to critical thinking and creativity – characteristics needed for any good scientist!

Dr Kirby



Choose Your Charity

School Charity 2020-21

We are looking for a new school charity for this coming school year 2020-2021. If you would like to suggest a charity for the whole school to support, please click on the links below.

[Lower School Nomination Form](#)

[Upper School Nomination Form](#)

Please fill in the form and return it to Mrs. Day by 5th July 2020.