

#### Newsletter 24th April 2020

I hope that you were able to enjoy Easter the best you could and that you and your family have stayed safe and well. Both schools reopened this week for a small number of children and you can see later in the newsletter some of the things they have been up to. Thank you for sending pictures from home, we have included these as well. I hope that this will allow your child or children to see what others have been up to and feel a little more connected to the school community.

You will have noticed this week a new approach to learning, the main change being the use of the Seesaw website. I would like to thank all of the teachers for their hard work in learning the new system, populating it with activities and responding to the children's work. We have had some very positive feedback from parents with there being a general theme of people appreciating having a more interactive learning experience. The one downside of this is the amount of time teachers are spending on Seesaw. While I know how much this is valued from families, my colleagues are balancing home learning, with their own family lives (like you many are home schooling their own children and/or caring for older generations of family members) and so you may see a reduction in the number of length of comments from teachers. Please also bear in mind that staff are on a rota to come into school and work with those children still attending.

Although most of the tasks on Seesaw can be completed using a mobile or tablet and paper and pencil, I appreciate a laptop or desktop computer makes things easier. We have a very limited number of laptops available to loan to families. Please only apply for one if you have a considerable need for it. If so, please <u>fill in this form</u>.

Early this week I was talking to two pupils at the Juniors who had celebrated a birthday this week or during Easter. It's a shame for such an exciting event to fall during such times, so happy birthday to all children who have recently had birthdays. We have a special birthday page of the newsletter, later on.

Well done to the children at the Juniors who took part in a virtual chess tournament with players from King Henry VIII in Coventry. The children did really well and the top three placed children were all from Dunchurch.

The Warwickshire Family Information Service newsletter is full of helpful advice, click here to access it.

Lastly, an important part of the work we do to help children be safe and happy involves encouraging them to talk to someone they trust, be it a parent or a member of staff at school, if they have anything on their mind. While the children are not at school they may still have worries or anxieties, but their ability to talk to people beyond their family is limited. It is for this reason we have setup an email address for children to use (worries@dunchurchfederation.co.uk) if children would like to talk to us about anything that is causing concern. Please let your child(ren) know about this. The teachers will be sharing the address with the children though the Seesaw site.

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### Woody's Blog

I hope you've all managed to concentrate on your learning in this lovely sunny weather, whilst also having some fun. Leon has made a very colourful bead picture of me, thank you, I love it.

In my guessing game I was in the hall at the Junior School and in Spectacled Owl's, (Miss Lodge) at the Infant School. Did you guess correctly?

I went for my daily exercise yesterday and noticed that Dunchurch Park grounds are open for doggie walks. It was very lovely and I saw a rabbit and a squirrel but they ran away and didn't want to play with me.





Stay Safe.

Love from Woody

Seesaw

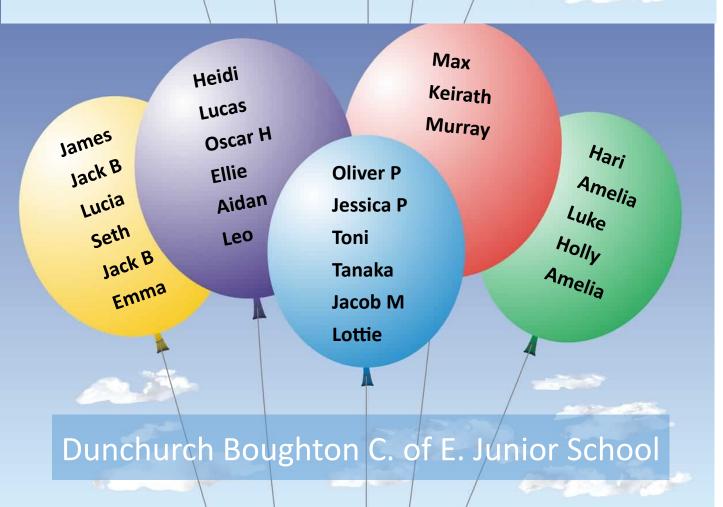
Please can parents use the year group email addresses to ask any questions or queries they may have about Seesaw. Please do not upload your questions via the Seesaw website.

### Virtual Balloon Race

With the help of Mr. Saker, we are holding a virtual balloon race. Each person buys a balloon for £2 and the person whose balloon goes the furthest wins a prize. We thought this would be a nice way of bringing people together (in a virtual sense) as well as giving money to a good cause. Money raised will be donated to the <a href="Children's Society's Coronavirus appeal">Children's Society's Coronavirus appeal</a>. To enter pay £2 on ParentPay for each balloon you would to buy. You can watch the two races (one for each school) through the links below:

http://www.balloonrace.com/dunchurchinfant http://www.balloonrace.com/dunchurchjunior





## **Children in School**







# Infants Home Learning

















## Junior Home Learning









