



Dunchurch Schools' Federation

Newsletter 1st May 2020

I hope you and your family have been keeping well this past week. Although the two schools are strange places to be at the moment due to the low numbers of children, they are, in their own way, busy places. We have averaged around thirty children across the two schools with two teachers, two or three teaching or nursery assistants, two lunchtime staff and myself or a senior colleague helping them with their learning. At the junior school we have had some building work carried out. The shutters that most of the classrooms had have now been removed and replaced with stud partition walls. A painter has been finishing the work over the last few days and it now just remains for the windows and doors to be installed.



We are now two weeks into using Seesaw for home learning. In many ways our experiences mirror what we already knew about learning which happens at home; when we have considered how homework is organised it is difficult to find an approach that suits all families and so it is the case with online home learning. It is with some relief though that the overwhelming majority of parents have welcomed the new approach. At the end of the first week, around 85% of families were using Seesaw and this is now over 90% and we have had lots of positive comments from parents.

There is wide variation between approaches different schools are using for home learning. Some schools are not setting much in the way of learning activities because they want to prioritise well being. While happiness and mental health should always come first, I don't believe that this is at odds with setting learning in most cases, in fact I think that providing some sort of routine to what would have been a school day is usually conducive to well being. That is not to say that the work we set should be seen as the be-all and end-all. If it isn't working for your family, then you can make changes and do what you think is right for your child or children. There are many activities which your child will benefit from (crafts, sports, gardening, cooking, etc.) which are difficult for us to set as home learning. The work we set is aimed at helping your child progress against the National Curriculum and while they will fall behind if they don't follow the work, there are lots of other experiences which they will benefit from.

Some classes have been using the blog feature within Seesaw. Later in the newsletter there are guidelines which Mrs. Read has written about how the blog will be used.

Following on from last week's photo montage from the staff at the infants, staff at the juniors have put together a video reading of a story for the children to enjoy. You can see it through [this link](#). Thank you to Mrs. Read for putting the video together.

A reminder that we are holding a virtual balloon race to raise money for the Children's Society's coronavirus appeal. Through the office and ParentPay you can give £2 for a balloon. The race will start on the 1st June with a prize for the balloon which travels the furthest. Contact either office to enter.

Ian Dewes—iandewes@dunchurfederation.co.uk

Woody's Blog

Hi Everyone

I hear you have been working hard on your school work. I've been very busy at home getting my work done too, but I got a bit bored this afternoon so I got some of my toys out, hoping someone would play with me. It was too wet to play ball in the garden so we played fetch with one of my teddies. I had great fun, but I got a bit tired and cuddled up with my teddies for a little sleep.

In my guessing game I was in Rainbow Nursery and the music room at the Junior school, I suppose the piano was a big clue!

I miss you all very much, but stay safe and we'll be together again soon.

Love from Woody



Other News.

Online courses.

Warwickshire County Council is providing free online courses for parents.

Want to know more about the way your teenager's brain works? Want to understand more about your child? These are tried and tested courses created in the NHS. Go to <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/parentguides>

WCC Family Information Service.

To access Warwickshire County Council's latest Family Information Service Newsletter, follow this link.

<https://mailchi.mp/warwickshire/family-information-service-newsletter-information-on-covid-1190016?e=53b66f2eb7>

The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse.

Everyone is warmly invited to enjoy the beautiful story The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse by Charlie Macksey and published by Penguin Random House. The story is read by the staff at the Junior school. Please follow [this link](#) to the story and the latest news from the school.

Virtual Balloon Race

With the help of Mr. Saker, we are holding a virtual balloon race on Monday 1st June. Each person buys a balloon for £2 and the person whose balloon goes the furthest, travelling over virtual land and sea, wins a prize.

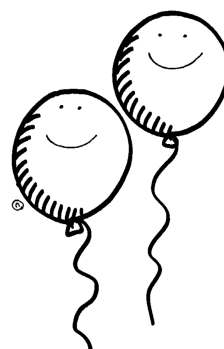
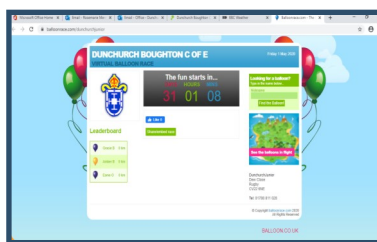
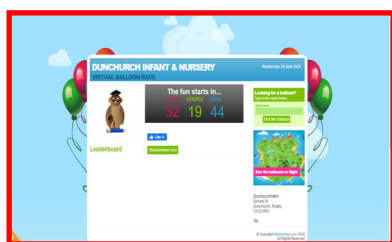


The children can track their balloon's progress on the leader board.

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 [Children's Society's Coronavirus appeal](#). To enter pay £2 on ParentPay for each balloon you want 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>



Guidelines for using class blog on SeeSaw

During lockdown this will be used as a social area so children can keep in touch with each other safely.

Children may share one or two posts a week including a picture if they wish, to show others what they are getting up to at home - a bit like a short diary entry.

School work should not be shared here. School work is private between a child and the teachers.

Children may comment sensibly on other children's posts.

Children should remember that this is a school platform, which is reviewed by teachers.

Children should be good 'Digital Citizens' making sure their comments are thoughtful, polite and positive at all times.

Children must not share personal details such as addresses and phone numbers.

Children should be appropriately dressed in all pictures.

Teachers will not be marking blog posts and will not have time to respond to each post individually.

If the Blog become problematic it will removed and the children will no longer be able to access it.

Times Tables Rock Stars.

Junior School parents will be receiving an email today inviting them to give permission for their child/children to access Times Tables Rock Stars (TT Rock Stars). The deadline for parents to return their consent form is Tuesday 5th May by 4pm. Access codes will be sent out on Wednesday 6th May for those children whose parents have given consent.

Happy birthday to...

Diago

Albie

Sam L

Jessica
B

Sam M

Dunchurch Infant School and Nursery

Hari

Ava C

Florence

Chris

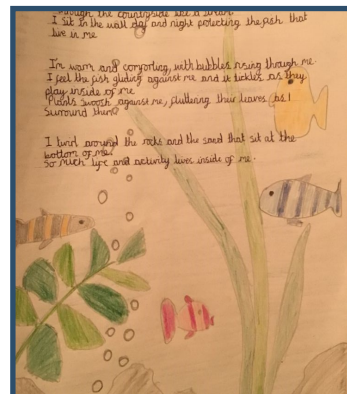
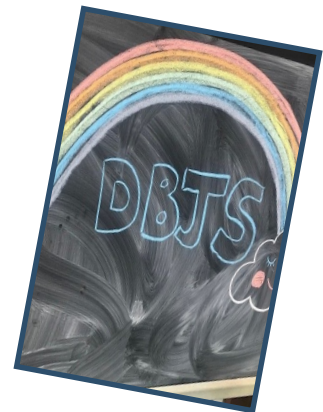
Danielle

Lauren O

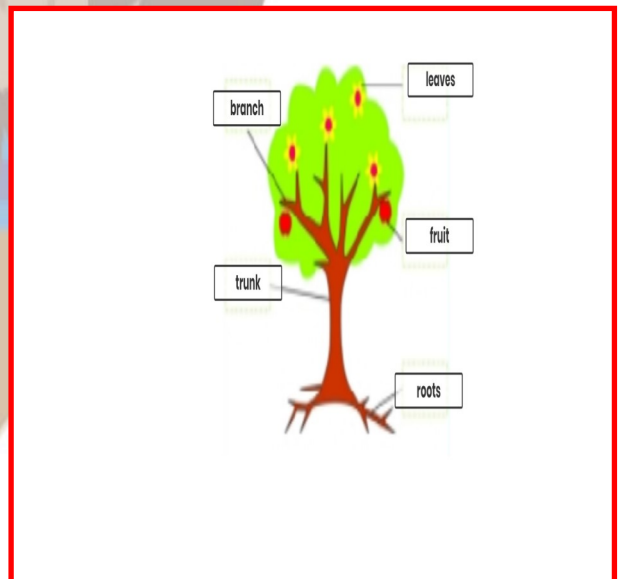
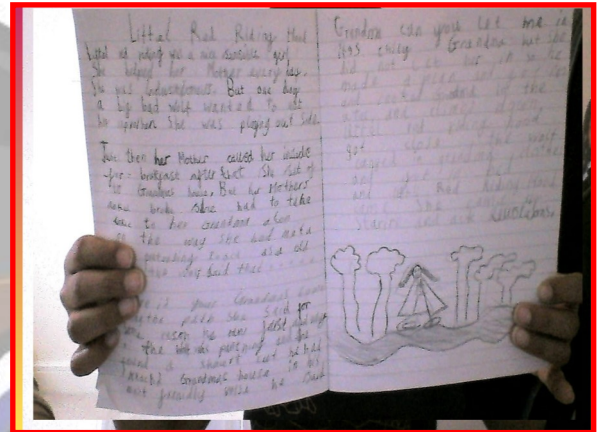
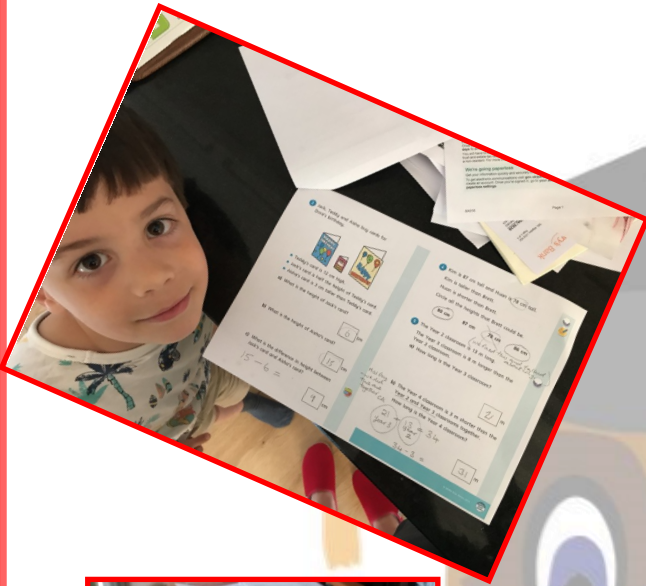
Ava O

Dunchurch Boughton C. of E. Junior School

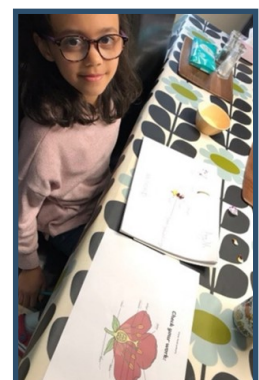
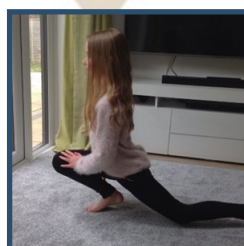
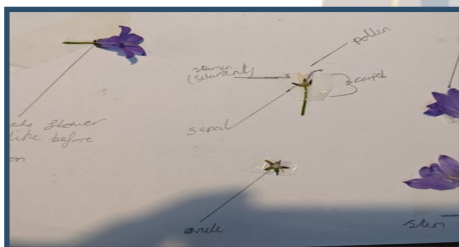
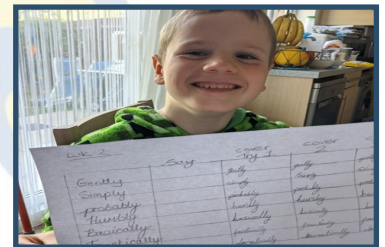
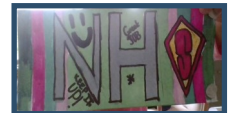
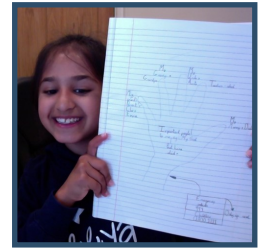
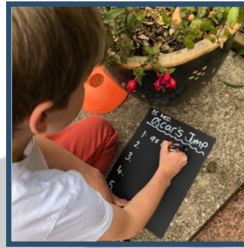
Children in School



The Infants



The Juniors



Thank you to Little Owls and Elf Owls for creating this lovely collage telling us all of the things they are missing.

