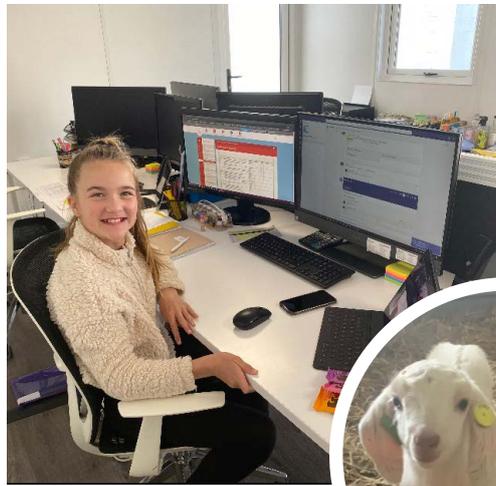




24th April 2020

#REMOTELearning

A Unique Start to the Term



It's been a unique way to start the term but we have been impressed by the efforts of students, parents and staff who have adapted to the challenges faced with positivity.

We love seeing your home learning images. Please send yours in to feature in the next courier.

MORE HOME LEARNING PICTURES ON PAGE 4.

More Inside

Musical thanks to the NHS
Community Support

Update from Foundation
And plenty more....

Next Prep and Pre-Prep Courier: 1st May 2020



The Head has his say...

I hope that you are all able to enjoy some of this wonderfully sunny weather at the moment. Perhaps it is the British weather playing its usual humorous games with us; the moment we go into lockdown, we are blessed

with clear blue skies for weeks on end!

It has been terrific to hear about the high levels of ambition and effort being shown by all TPS pupils. We are carefully monitoring attendance and we have total engagement from the whole of the Prep school. I am hearing about tremendous work from pupils, both individually and as a class, and I am speaking with teachers about how it might be possible for me to start seeing some of this work, as I would have done in the playground at breaktime if we were all in school physically.

As well as the progress being made in all of the classroom subjects, I am very much looking forward to seeing what we can all achieve in the co-curricular activities which have been launched. I am busy recording my contribution with Robyn to the Community Choir online performance of 'You are not alone'; please do contact Mrs Hornsby if you would like to take part!

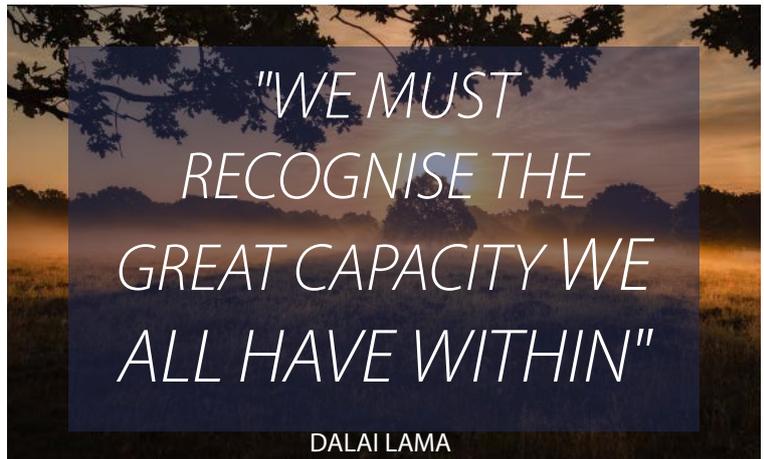
I am also convinced that our children are learning many things which go beyond what we would have expected in the normal run of things. They are making huge leaps in terms of understanding computer systems and the fabulous educational opportunities offered by the digital age. Some pupils have been watching TED talks, others have accessed awesome scientific experiments, and some have used technology to learn new skills. I suspect that all of us are realising that technology can be used to genuinely

enrich our lives in more ways than we had previously imagined.

It is also very interesting to monitor how pupils cope with the challenges of learning new ways of doing things. It may be, for example, that a child finds 'normal school' relatively straightforward but that remote learning throws up more problems for that child. Although this can be challenging, it offers, at the same time, significant opportunities to develop important attitudes to learning like positivity, curiosity, persistence and resilience.

Finally, I would like to once again give my sincere thanks to all parents (and other relatives) who have given so much support to the children and to the school, enabling us to make such an exciting and positive start to the Summer term. Thank you, and I wish you all a restful and enjoyable weekend.

**Mr Andrew Edwards,
Headmaster**



News from Nursery and Pre-Prep

We have so enjoyed seeing the children's work uploaded to Class Dojo over the last eight days of our remote schooling. How hard all the children have been working on the tasks set by their teachers. Thank you so much for all that you are doing

to support this.

Opportunities for Creativity and the concentration that goes with it, can improve wellbeing and resilience and can help us to get through even the most uncertain of times. It really is vital for us all. We at TPPS have therefore kept this at the forefront of our minds when planning and preparing content for the children to complete over these weeks of self-isolation. Many of the children will have been incredibly creative over the break too. I have been particularly touched to see all that is being shared by the parents in both Nursery three and Nursery four. I really do hope that the routine provided by the new term and the school days have been a good focus and that your families and the children have been able to establish a balance of their work online

with physical activity, play and opportunities to be creative.

We heard from a family in the holidays, who had realised that they were all spending too much time in separate rooms on their own devices, playing games, looking at Twitter or watching Netflix. They decided to mix it up a bit and have been doing a family Masterchef competition as well as agreeing either to do some art or writing at least every other day. The family felt it had made a noticeable difference to everyone's mood and that it had provided much needed laughter for them all.

We are very much looking forward to hearing from all the children again online next week and hope that they are looking forward to it as well. Thank you parents for all that you are doing to juggle and support your children, we appreciate that this can't be easy at all.

**Mrs Louise Leah,
Head of Nursery and Pre-Prep**



Weekly Awards

**Learners of the Week**

Tomisin Awofisayo – for being first on-line, for responding positively to instructions and for helping others.

William South - for settling in well and making a video of himself for the rest of the class.

Finn Hogevoid – for working hard and for producing an excellent paper parrot plate.

Faris Quartly – Working really hard and producing an excellent verbal explanation on migration.

Emily Miller – persistence and determination in remote learning

Ben South – for demonstrating high academic standards and ambition.

Henry Kingswell – for working really hard and having high expectations in presentation of his work

Charlie Weatherill – for excellent effort, positivity and pride in his work in live Geography lessons

Gethin Jennings – for excellent commitment and verbal reasoning in a debate on the origins of the universe.

Siddu Chaganti – For being a superb independent and conscientious learner at all times.

Musician of the Week

Frey Lant – for playing his trumpet for all the NHS staff and other essential key workers at 8pm on Thursday.

Sportsman of the Week

Oliver Mellenchip – for tremendous independence and effort, producing excellent results in the fitness challenge

Sportswoman of the Week

Romany Airton – for amazing resilience in the 'Beat the Teacher Challenge!

Citizen of the Week

Sophia Powers – Raising over £750.00 with her drawings for Musgrove Park Hospital.

#NatureNotes



Today's #NatureNotes, key worker children and staff notice new resident in our Ward Room on the playground: a pigeon carefully guarding a nest, enjoying a rare bit of peace and quiet in a normally loud and busy playground environment.

Sam Baker

Shake up in your sitting room!



Mrs Lawson has got everyone dancing again, with daily Wake Up, Shake Up routines, delivered from her sitting room! The new routine, which involves waltzing, and blowing kisses to everyone we miss, is called, Its All About You. It's dedicated to all the Nursery and Pre-Prep children, because it really is all about you! We hope to be back together in the Pre-Prep playground very soon.

House Points

Silver

Sophia Heywood – 5H

Sophia Odedra -3R

Julian Doherty – 3R

Jessica Miller – 3H

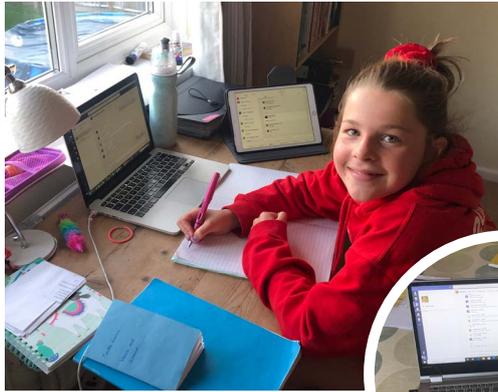
Aquilla Notaro – 3H

Zach Palmer – 4F

Benjamin Machado – 4F

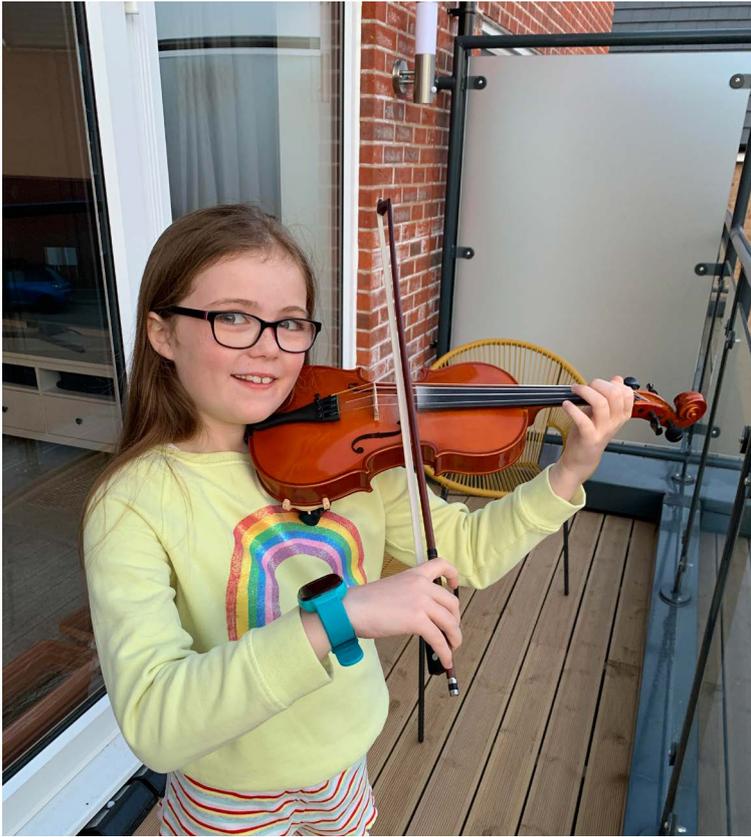
Maddie Hudgell – 6T

Thomas Ford – 6T





Showing thanks to the NHS!



Matilda White, one of our special musicians playing in support of the NHS staff on Thursday evening.



Frey Lant playing his trombone enthusiastically for the NHS workers. Well done Frey!



Harry Way, another wonderful musician playing his French Horn for the NHS.

Super Shoebox!

James Pullen (4F) has been busy, fully embracing one of his creative curriculum challenges this week...a 'Rainforest in a shoebox!' Complete with newly acquired facts around the outside following supported research...fabulous work!



The youngest member of Taunton Scrubbers!



Since learning to use a sewing machine at the age of 5, Patrick has been busy creating facemasks and headbands for his Cystic Fibrosis team, paediatric department of Musgrove Park Hospital and other carers in the community. The family are proud supporters of the Scrubs-making group and have been involved with them since the start. Despite being unable to leave the house for weeks, Patrick has been participating in home schooling, daily physio and has given up lots of his play time to continue with his sewing in order to help others.

Well done, Patrick. TPPS are so proud of your hard work and desire to help the NHS at such an important time.

5H Have Been Very Busy Bakers



Year 1 Make Memories

We have been so impressed by the Year One children's enthusiasm for home learning and would like to thank the parents, wholeheartedly, for the time they have given to supporting their children with this. We appreciate that some of you have other children and work commitments to juggle as well.

We will probably look back on this 'lockdown' as a momentous time in history, so we felt it was important for the children to decorate and date their home school workbooks. We hope they will keep these special books as a memory of this time and possibly share them with their own children one day. The first piece of writing was an account of the children's Easter holiday, in which they used wonderful adjectives and similes to describe their activities (of which there were many, in spite of not being able to go far!).

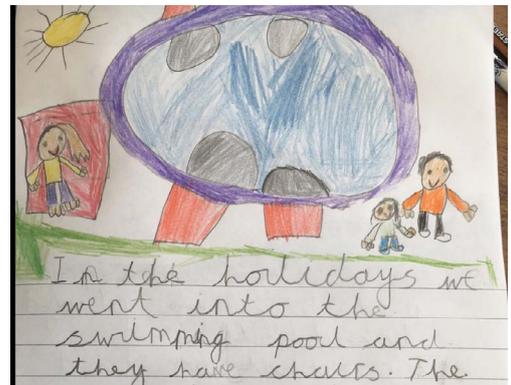
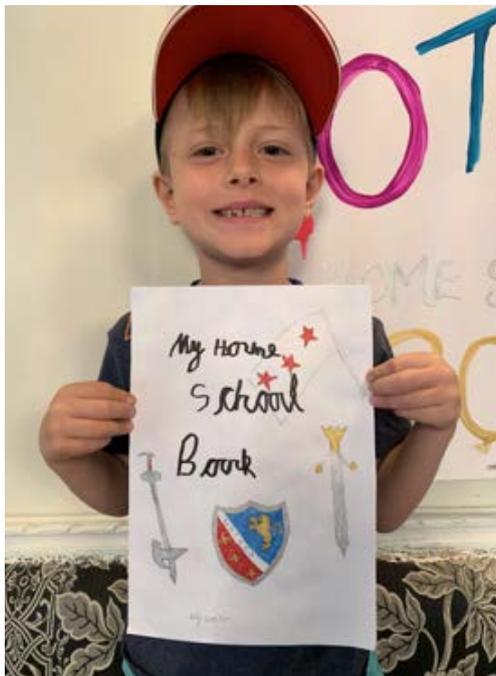
The appearance of rainbows in people's windows, led us on to rainbow art, science and literacy. The children have created colourful rainbows, taken part in science experiments to create real rainbows and even made up their own mnemonics to help them remember the order of the colours.

On Monday, an exciting package dropped through the children's letterboxes, it was some magic beans! (Sadly, some magic beans got lost in transit, but those children have been very creative in finding other magic seeds to grow). The children have planted their beans, remembering all the things plants need to grow healthily. We have started a bean diary and now we will wait to see what happens next! In the meantime the children have drawn beautiful story maps to help them learn the 'rags to riches' tale of, Jack and the Beanstalk. Our new topic has also inspired some children to begin constructing their own castles!

In maths, we have been learning about place value in two digit numbers. The children have been able to continue with the Abacus maths scheme and have also completed some excellent problem solving activities. Did you know that the Queen was 94 on Tuesday! Some of the children worked out how many decades (tens) and how many ones she was. The answer, they correctly discovered, was 9 tens and 4 ones.

Thank you, Year 1, for sending us so many wonderful photographs of the work you have been doing at home. You have made Mrs Lawson and Mrs Hebditch very happy.

Rachel Lawson and Lucy Hebditch



Reception Find Deep Sea Treasure

Reception have got off to a flying start with their home learning and Mrs Wallace and Mrs Jenner are both so proud of how hard they are working and are really enjoying seeing all of their fabulous work.

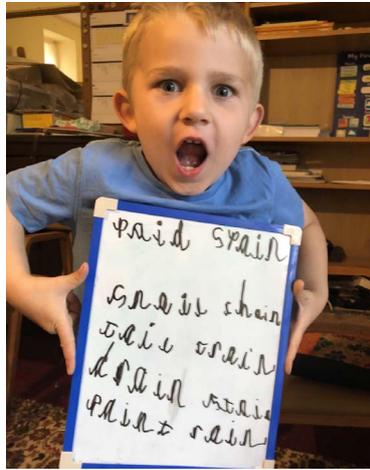
This week, the Reception have started their new topic, 'Deep Sea Treasure'. In Literacy, they have been writing riddles about an undersea animal of their choice. All of the children have thought so carefully about the clues they have written which has really helped Mrs Wallace and Mrs Jenner when they have been trying to guess their riddles. It has been so lovely to see the children working so hard with their 'here we go' writing and full stops and capital letters, which is brilliant to see. The children have also created some fabulous artwork to go with their riddles of their undersea creatures. So far there has been an angler fish, a jellyfish, a sea horse and a crab.

In Maths, the children have been practising their number formation, estimating and number bonds to 5. They took part in a range of activities both indoors and outdoors, including, estimating objects around the house and making numbers out of natural objects.

As well as working hard with their Literacy and Maths, the Reception children have started writing their own 'Aquatic Adventures' fact book and each made a 'Magic Moment' jar to capture lots of happy moments at home, ready to share when we return to school.

Mrs Wallace and Mrs Jenner cannot wait for more fun and activities next week, fingers crossed this beautiful sunshine continues!

Reception Team



HAVE A STORY?

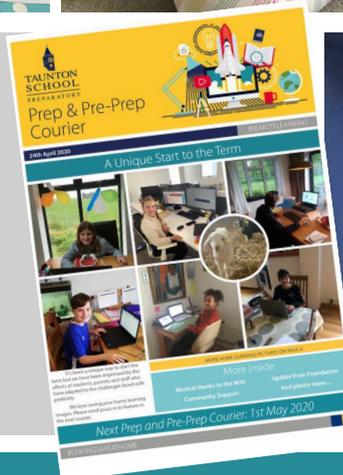
Let the Courier teams know!

Email the Senior Courier:

senior.courier@tauntonschool.co.uk

Email the Prep Courier:

tpscourier@tauntonschool.co.uk



Year 2 Plant Sunflowers in the Name of Art

Year 2 have impressed their teachers by adapting to home schooling so well in the first few days of our remote learning adventure. This term's 'Vincent van Gogh' topic is well underway and the children have been finding out about the famous painter, choosing favourite paintings and planting sunflower seeds. Some of the children's sunflowers (and Mrs Cooper's) have already started to grow and we wish them all lots of luck! Mrs Brodie and Mrs Cooper are loving seeing all the photos and videos that the children are sending. It's wonderful to still be connected whilst we are all apart.

Year 2 Team



'Sensory-Walk' Super-Star

Sophia created a wonderful 'sensory walk' a few weeks ago outside her house to make peoples daily walks more interesting. Her mum shared it on facebook BBC Somerset thought she's done such a fantastic job at brightening poples days that she was invited to do an interview at 8:15 on Monday morning.

Good job Sophia, what a thoughtful and fun thing to do!



Happy 100th Birthday Captain!

One of our star Prep School drummers, Julian Doherty in Year 3, has created his own special tribute to the wonderful and inspirational Captain Tom Moore, who has recently celebrated his 100th birthday.

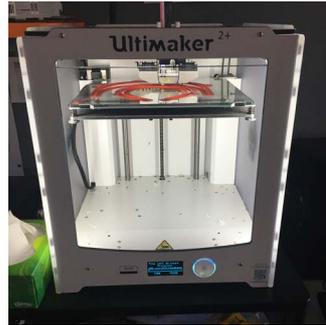
He played the drums and sang as loud as he could as a tribute to the inspirational Captain Moore.



Bringing the Community Together

3D Printing

Our Head of DT, Glyn Bough, has led an initiative to make use of our school 3D printers to make PPE Face Shields for the Community. More than 400 have been made and distributed to Musgrove Park Hospital, Southmead Hospital, plus a number of Surgeries, Pharmacies and Care Homes in our local area. Amazing work Mr Bough and team!



Grab 'n' Go Food Boxes

We are supplying approximately 60 nutritiously balanced food boxes to Musgrove Park Hospital daily. These are donated to front line workers and the feedback we have received has been overwhelming. This is headed up by our Head Chef, Lisa Richards plus a team of TS staff who are all volunteering their time to come in and (safely distanced) pack the boxes every day. We would like to keep this going for as long as possible. If you feel you are

able to make a small donation towards to cost of supplying these boxes you can donate here: <https://bit.ly/TSCovidNHS>



The Firs Nursing Home

We have long supported one of our local nursing homes and our students, during regular term time, volunteer on a regular basis. Over the Easter break we were able to help their call to the community to supply donations of Easter Eggs to their residents. In total they received more than 80 which meant that the hard working staff as well as the residents were able to enjoy some Easter cheer. Thank you so much to everyone who donated.



Scrubs

We are delighted that a number of parents and students have been supporting 'Taunton Scrubbers'. A local group set up to make and supply PPE clothing to our local hospitals. If you are interested in getting involved then visit the Taunton Scrubbers Group on facebook for more information.



Update from the Taunton School Foundation

Supporting each other and sharing memories

In 2022, we will celebrate our 175th anniversary and gather to celebrate with stories, photographs and shared memories about what it means to be part of Taunton School.

Founded in 1847, Taunton School has survived wars, pandemics, political unrest, financial uncertainty and the loss of life. We have adapted and flourished over the years; we've extended our community, our students, parents, teachers and friends come from all over the world and from just down the road. We have welcomed wealthy and poor children from every background and changed lives through education, regardless of financial means. We have created outstanding sportsmen and women, medical pioneers, war heroes, artists, academics, business entrepreneurs, achievers, dreamers and leaders of change. We will continue to do so.

The Foundation Team is working to engage our global community of Old Tauntonians, staff, parents and friends to create a collection of memories to remind us who we are, where we have come from and that we have a wonderful and exciting future to share together.

Our new "Memories Project" will be launched soon online. We are collecting photos and film clips- there's a questionnaire for fun! We are also asking members of our professional community to share their knowledge and experiences in a 3 minute film, to be shared with our students. Our business community, hard hit in many cases, will also be able to promote products and services via a new online platform that will be available on our website.

We are reaching out in many ways and asking people to share their time, stories, memories and collective support.

Already, the Taunton School Community has worked to support our NHS staff and care workers here in Taunton. We have received outstanding financial support from parents in particular, who have donated their discounted fees to help those with greater financial need through our Hardship Fund and that generosity is hugely appreciated.

We remain heartened by the kindness and support of our community and will continue to work together throughout these difficult times and beyond, as we have always done.

To find out more about our Memories Project, to promote your business, donate to the Hardship Fund, or to get involved in any way, do get in touch: tscommunity@tauntonschool.co.uk

Thank you and we'll see you soon!

Nadine Latte and George Cockburn (the Foundation Team)

