



**TAUNTON
SCHOOL**
PREPARATORY

Prep & Pre-Prep Courier



12th February 2021

#REMOTELearning

Model Students in Year 3



More photos on page 4

Year 3 are relishing the opportunity to get creative through a range of tasks linked to their Humanities work. In their Swords and Sandals topic, pupils have been learning about the Romans and the explosion of Mount Vesuvius. In PRE, children have been exploring different religious buildings. Encouraged to research their projects first, we have been so impressed by how children have chosen to present their work so we had to share some of their first projects with you. Unfortunately, we cannot share the large number of videos with you here but we have seen great use of playmobil, Lego, exploding model volcanoes, PowerPoint presentations and re-enactments. However, here is a selection of photographs from their first few projects; Gladiators and the Colosseum, Layers of the Earth and Religious Buildings. Well done, Year 3. We are really proud of everything you are achieving and cannot wait to see what you produce next.

The Year 3 Team

More Inside

Wellbeing Wednesday

Music Matters

Weekly Awards

And plenty more

Next Prep and Pre-Prep Courier: 5th March 2021

#STAYINGSAFEATHOME



The Head has his say...

I hope that you and your families are keeping safe and well. I know that some in our community are facing, and have faced, very serious challenges in their personal and professional lives, including of course, for some, the heartbreaking loss of loved ones during this time of COVID. As well as our

parents, some of our teachers and their families have had to face such challenges. I wish for all of you the strength that you need to support you and your families through these times.

I have no hesitation whatsoever in starting with a very big thank you. You have provided amazing support for your children in their schoolwork, whilst having to juggle all sorts of other commitments, and we are extremely grateful for this. You have also shown terrific support for the staff as they have strived to do their very best for your children. Your children have also been magnificent, and it is the teamwork and sense of community between pupils, parents and staff which make our school the special place that it is, and which allows us to prevail in the face of any challenges which are thrown our way.

With regard to the academic progress of the pupils, I am delighted to say that the teachers feel that we are on track in terms of delivering the curriculum which we would normally be delivering. There are undoubtedly even some areas of learning and personal development where some pupils have made even more progress than they would have done (e.g. independence, computing skills, taking responsibility, and developing their ability to liaise with their teachers and ask pertinent questions). However, we are very aware of the challenges that some pupils have been facing academically, and the teachers are doing all that they can to support. For Years 7 and 8, the standardised tests in Maths, English and Science which pupils usually sit in the Spring term have been postponed to the Summer term, and this also applies to the reading and spelling tests (all year groups).

With regards to co-curricular, there continue to be big rays of sunshine such as all of the clubs that we have managed to run, and the terrific Performing Arts Showcases for Years 7 and 8. A top priority for us has been the monitoring of mental health and well-being in our pupils, and I know how much time is being spent by staff on calls with individual children. It was lovely to give the pupils a break from the daily routine on Wednesday, and we will

continue to do all that we can to nurture, motivate and inspire our pupils.

With regard to the return to school, we are of course waiting for information from the government. Whilst at the start of this term we were hoping to be back after half term, we now know of course that we will not be back before 8th March. Assuming that we do return on 8th March, we do not know how many year groups we will be allowed to welcome back into school. Should the government make announcements during the half term break, the school leadership team will of course be discussing them straight away, but please do not expect immediate communication from us. It often takes a few days after these announcements to clarify, check for amendments and decide upon a plan. I will certainly be writing to update you during the week after half term, depending on what we have been told. With regard to boarders, once we have more information, Mrs Wells will, as always, be in communication with families on an individual basis. In the meantime, please do contact Mrs Wells if you wish to discuss your circumstances.

We have had one or two very understandable queries from parents about the issue of a reduction to the fees for the Spring term in view of the enforced school closure, and I have been referring those parents to the letter of 11th January sent to all parents by Mr Glaser. We thank you for supporting the school by having paid the full fees due for the Spring term in the normal way, and we are very grateful for your patience as we continue to monitor and assess the financial implications of the current situation.

Finally, let us finish this half term on a high by highlighting the fantastic achievement in being ranked 7th in the country by the magazine 'School Sport' in terms of our sporting record during recent times (taking into account both Prep and Senior). We can be very proud of the very high standards being achieved and many congratulations to our pupils as well as all of the staff who lead, support and contribute to this very important area of school life.

I wish you all a very well-deserved break over half term with as much rest and enjoyment as possible.

Mr Andrew Edwards
Headmaster



News from Nursery and Pre-Prep

As we end our final week of this half-term, we have enjoyed all the hearts and flowers that have appeared around the Nursery and the Pre-Prep. We have also enjoyed the light dustings of the white stuff that have brought inevitable squeals of

excitement before a certain air of disappointment.

We would like to thank all our committed parents for supporting the children's remote learning at home. Your efforts are not going unnoticed as the TPPS Teachers continue to be delighted and encouraged by the children's creativity and hard work.

We have also been able to accommodate a number of meetings with outside agencies this week, in order to support the children's development and their ongoing journeys. To have been

able to work in this normal way does feel incredible. I look forward to the return of all our children very soon. Hopefully, we can see a chink of light at the end of this tunnel now.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff who have continued to work in school with the children at this time. They have very simply done an amazing job in such challenging times and I am very grateful for their continued commitment and professionalism.

For those of you looking forward to a break from the routine at home, we hope that you enjoy a lovely week with your family.

Mrs Louise Leah,
Head of Nursery and Pre-Prep

#WellbeingWednesday

TPS pupils and staff turned off their devices on Wednesday morning and embraced a morning of wellbeing activities linked to the "Springwatch" theme and involving interacting with nature and the great outdoors. Pupils were encouraged to make bird boxes and bug hotels and to go on nature themed walks with their families, where possible. The weather was very kind to us; chilly but sunny and so it was lovely

to see and hear about the den building, baking, picnics and dog walks which took place! Boarders and the children of key workers also enjoyed various screen free activities with members of the SMT, including a nature walk, origami, puzzles, biscuit icing and a giant Connect 4 match!

whilst pupils, staff and parents have risen so well to all the challenges of remote learning; it does mean that we are all feeling the need to get away from a screen and "recharge"!

I hope you all have a safe and relaxing half term break.

Joanna Hall-Tomkin, Assistant Head Pastoral

My thanks to all the families and pupils who took part; it is vital that we focus on our wellbeing and recognise that



#WellbeingWednesday



Year 3 get creative (continued from front page)





Music Matters

Come rain or shine, lockdowns, pandemics, storms or snow, music matters deeply to us for the comfort it brings to listeners as well as the excitement and positive energy it fosters in children who take part, either by singing or playing musical instruments. Or in the case of many pupils at Taunton School, both!



Here are two of our Music Scholars who shared their musical experiences– some challenges, some thrills, some early memories – in an interview with Mr Baker: Ethan Li (8F) and Freya Simpson (7V)

Mr Baker (SB): How long have you been playing your instruments?

FREYA: I've been playing the piano for 5 years and the violin for 4 years.

ETHAN: I started the piano 5 years ago and the clarinet about 4 years ago.

SB: What made you choose the instruments you play?

FREYA: My mum plays the piano and the violin and she started teaching me at home. We have always had a piano at home so music was always around me when I was growing up.

ETHAN: My older sister played the piano so

I guess that encouraged me. At school, I was given an opportunity to play the clarinet as a taster for 4 lessons when I was in Year 3, and I chose to carry on.

SB: What is the most difficult aspect about performing or playing your instruments?

FREYA: With piano playing, I find sight-reading difficult. Also, the coordination with two hands is hard sometimes.

ETHAN: When playing the clarinet, it is sometimes hard not to squeak when playing some notes. To help manage this, it's important to keep the clarinet and the reeds clean so I make sure it's all clean after playing.

SB: What are your first ever memories of making music or giving a performance?

FREYA: Playing piano duets with my brother at home when we both started learning the piano.

ETHAN: Performing a piano solo in a Performing Arts Café when I was in Year 3. I remember being really nervous but relieved at the end.

SB: When was the time you felt most scared or most nervous about performing music?

FREYA: When I took my first ever piano exam, the Initial grade, I remember I was so nervous I couldn't speak!

ETHAN: That first Café performance I did in Year 3. But nowadays I don't really get nervous.

SB: What is your strongest and most happy musical memory?

FREYA: Performing piano duets with my brother.

ETHAN: Whenever I finish my music exams, I can finally play pieces that I like to choose.

SB: What are your musical targets over the next 5-6 years until you leave school?

FREYA: I want to be able to learn a really difficult piano piece that my Mum plays called "Solfeggietto" by C.P.E. Bach. Also, I'd love to get distinction for both my Grade 8 Violin and Piano exams.

ETHAN: To be able to sight-read pieces of music really easily.

****Watch our latest Performing Arts Café video, plus all our previous video concerts (including our Gifted and Talented Year 7 and Year 8 Showcases), on the main Music Drama and Dance page on Firefly**** bit.ly/TPSPerformingArtsCafe

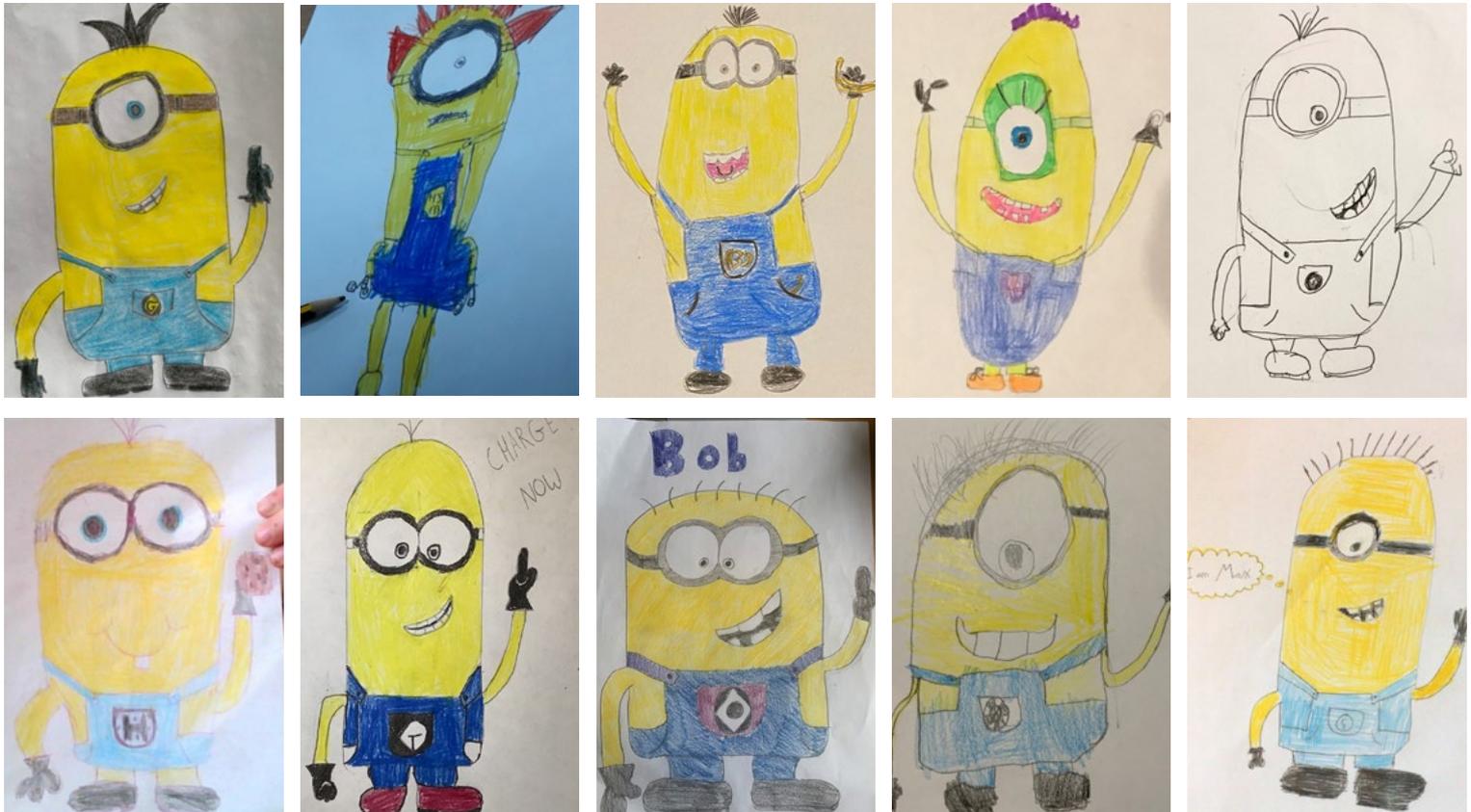


Sam Baker, Music Teacher and School Organist

Minion Army

This wonderful army of Minions was created by 3H in their Form Time last week as part of a live draw. With all pupils dialled into TEAMS, Mrs Hill shared her screen and we followed the online tutorial in real time. A few minutes later and this colourful army was created - not bad for our first attempt! We challenge other forms to see what creations they can create.

Mrs Hill



Special Story Time for Nursery 3



Children in Nursery 3 have been enjoying "Story of the Week" shared by the residents of Abbeyfield Quantock residential home.

Not only did the children relish the opportunity to hear one of their favourite stories but the residents have benefitted from connecting virtually too.

Each week will see the generations come together over a special 'story time' session.

This is thanks to Janine who works in Nursery 3 and also at the Abbeyfield.



The Colour Monster

As part of Children's Mental Health Week, the Pre-Prep children have listened to the story of The Colour Monster by Anna Llenas. It depicts a monster who is confused about his feelings. A little girl helps him to sort his feelings into coloured jars. The Pre-Prep children have followed this up by drawing their own feelings jars and have chosen the colours they feel represent each emotion. This has instigated some valuable discussions with their parents about the different emotions we all feel and the importance of sharing those.

Rachel Lawson



Airfix and Warhammer Model Making Club

Airfix Warhammer model making club is still taking place online and even one or two mums and dads are getting involved!

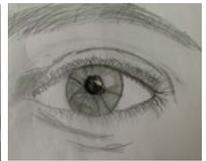
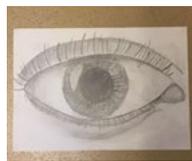
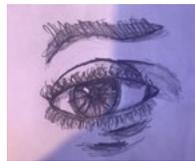
Simon Williams



Year 8 hone their artistic skills

Here are some examples of excellent work in portraiture over the last few weeks of online learning from Year 8.

Catherine Cadwaller



Year 6 Tutor Challenges

Over the last few weeks in a morale boosting class effort 6T have embarked on a series of tutor challenges. We started with a group cake baking session after lessons on Friday with the children invited to decorate a cake over the weekend. It was hard to select a winner, but Jessica Riley's blue and pink marbled 'corona cake' and Tanya Gurianova's blueberry decorated sponge cake were both excellent (and yummy!) taking joint first place. Last weekend we had a sport challenge with everything from press-ups to a penalty shootout. First place to the amazing Dulcie Catton who racked up an impressive 19,324 steps in her two day dance marathon – wow! We're now looking forward to our next challenge which, as voted for by the class, will be an art challenge and we also have our whole year 6 Skill Showcase coming up at the end of the month. Watch this space...

Caroline Thorpe



Care Gameathon - get involved!

A message from St Margaret's Hospice Care:

Are you ready for the St Margaret's Hospice Care Gameathon?!

Get your game face on and take on St Margaret's Hospice Care Gameathon event during the week of 15 February – 21 February 2021.

Whether you are a video gamer or prefer a classic board game, we're asking you to raise money and support your local Somerset hospice this February Half Term. You can game solo or gather your family, friends and colleagues virtually – the choice is yours! It's completely free to sign up and is suitable for all ages, all we ask in return is for you to raise a minimum sponsorship of £25 to help us reach our fundraising goal.

By taking part in the Gameathon and raising sponsorship, you can help to make sure over 4,900 people facing a life-limiting illness across Somerset receive the care and support they need this year. For more information and how to register for FREE, please visit our website www.st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/gameathon.



House Points



BRONZE

Valentin Bala – 6C
 Eric Wang – 6C
 Lois Coleman – 7V
 Tomisin Awofisayo – 8R
 Daniel Griffiths – 8T
 Destiny Zhemu – 8T
 Monique Du Toit – 8T
 Leila Imm – 8T
 Katrina McAllsiter – 8T
 Arjun Sathishkumar – 4F
 Brodie Davidson – 7W
 Sam Burns – 5H
 Joshua Smith – 6S
 Harvey Coleman – 6S
 Harry Cottrell – 6S
 David Bown – 6S
 Jasper Gregory – 6S
 Alfie Davis – 6S
 Ava Julyan – 6S
 Reya Marsh – 6S
 Freda Levin – 5H

SILVER

Olivia Brackstone – 3R
 Oscar Sanderson – 3R
 Daisy Gregory – 3R
 Oscar Dyson – 3R
 Violet Legg – 3R
 Riya Narang – 3H
 Eloise Bennett – 3H
 Jack Bruford – 3H
 Bella Vile – 5H
 Daisy Greenhalgh – 7V
 Atul Gudsoorkar – 7W
 Lily Blackwell – 7W
 Samia Johnson – 7V
 Freya Simpson – 7V
 Tilly Coomber – 7V
 Louie Mansfield – 6T
 Matilda White – 6T
 Johnny Chiu – 7W
 Emma Mason – 5H
 Lexi Beasley – 4C

GOLD

Alex Pretswell-Pike – 3R
 Olive Tarr – 3R
 Harriet Lawrence – 3R
 Oliver Hallett – 6C
 Valentin Bala – 6C
 Aadya Agrawal – 4F
 Jayden Mills – 4F
 Dulcie Catton – 6T
 Emily Miller – 7W
 Kristofer Maskell – 7W
 Isla Moss – 7W
 Zach Pitman – 7B
 Louis Ayrinhac – 5H
 Emma Mason – 5H
 Noah Jacobi – 5H
 Alex Coombes – 4C
 Adrien Moreau – 4F
 Katie Sercombe – 6S
 Sophia Heywood – 6S
 William South – 4F

Robbie Eckley – 7B
 Thomas Dutton – 7B
 Lewis Walters – 4F

TAUNTON SCHOOL
Online!

Drama Fest!

Drama Festival Week
 8th March – 12th March

The poster features a yellow background with a black geometric border. At the top left is a small icon of a school building. In the center, there are colorful silhouettes of people dancing. On the left, a man in a historical costume stands next to a classical column. On the right, a woman in a red dress holds a script. A computer mouse cord is also visible.

TAUNTON SCHOOL
Online!

Spring Term
 Performing Arts Cafes

Tuesday 19th January
 Tuesday 26th January
 Tuesday 2nd February
Year 7 Simply the Best
 Tuesday 9th February
Year 8 Simply the Best
 Tuesday 23rd February
 Tuesday 2nd March
 Tuesday 9th March
 Tuesday 16th March
 Tuesday 23rd March

The poster has a light blue background with a decorative black border. It features several photos of students performing on stage. At the bottom right, there is an illustration of a white coffee cup on a saucer with coffee beans. The text is arranged in a central column, with the dates and year-specific titles.

Lots of effort in Reception

Reception have been very busy over the past couple of weeks. The children enjoyed organising and preparing their own Teddy Bears' picnic. They made lots of lovely snacks for their teddies to enjoy and created lists and instructions to help make them. They have also been thinking about people who are special to them and created poems to describe their special person.

In Maths, the children have been learning the names of different 3D shapes. They enjoyed becoming 3D shape detectives and went on a shape hunt before predicting and investigating whether the

3D shapes would roll or slide. The children also enjoyed building a model using 3D shapes. They were very creative with their designs.

Mrs Wallace and Mrs Jenner are very proud of Reception and their incredible efforts over the past half term. They have all shown great perseverance and it has been wonderful to see them immersing themselves in their learning, with big smiles on their faces. A very big thank you to the Reception parents too for their continued support during this time.

The Reception Team



Exploring Mini Beasts in Nursery 4

Nursery 4 continue to make us proud exploring our mini beast topic. They have practised phonics on spider webs, moved like mini beasts to throw teddies into baskets and played sound rescue games with lots of water. They have even investigated

adding two groups of spots together on ladybirds. Well done Nursery 4! Enjoy a well deserved rest in your half term!

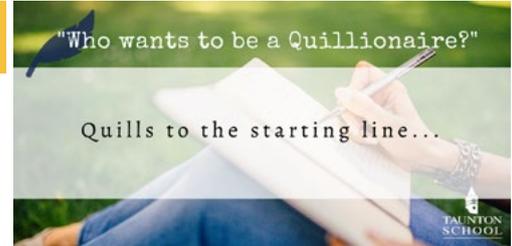
Nursery 4 Team



Sophie's Charity Challenge

Sophie in Nursery Four is currently undertaking a huge charity challenge with her baby sister Amber (1) to walk 28 miles in 28 days to raise money for Pancreatic Cancer UK. Very sadly they lost their Nana to the disease. We wish Sophie all the very best with her fundraising for a wonderful cause.

If you'd like to donate you can do so by visiting their dedicated Facebook page here: <https://www.facebook.com/donate/427216148696064>



Students, parents and staff are all invited to showcase their creative writing skills. Inspired by the 2020 'Narrative Essay Contest' we are cordially inviting EVERYONE to write a 250-500 word piece about 'A Meaningful Life experience'. Take a look [here](#) and get writing.

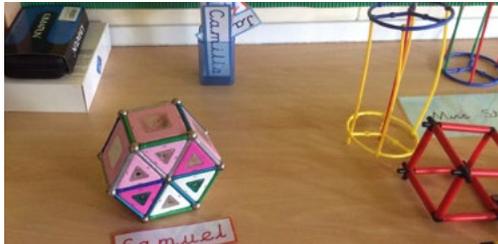
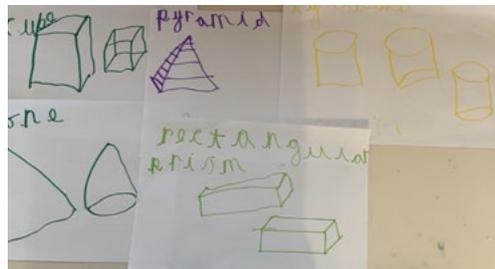
Entries to Miss Carter in the Senior School: alexandra.cutts@tauntonschool.co.uk by the end of Spring Term.

Best entries will be published in our summer 'Ink Blot' publication. Watch this space also for external competitions...

Year 1 Excel at Maths

Year One have worked so hard at their maths this term. Here are just some of the things we have been doing. We have been practising all our number bonds to 10 and beyond and are able to spot the corresponding subtraction sums. We can put a two digit number in our heads and add a single digit number by counting on using our hundred square to check. We have spotted lots of number patterns on the hundred square when counting in multiples of 2,5 and 10 as well as odd and even numbers. We especially enjoyed our 3D shape practical maths and made lots of 3D shape models. We have been learning to order the days of the week and months of the year and have been sorting the months into the correct season. We are looking forward to next month and spring!

Lucy Hebditch



Weekly Art Challenge

Each week the Senior School Art Department are setting an art challenge. The first one was called 'Underneath the surface' and we have had some fantastic entries and look forward to showcasing them in the next edition of the Courier. Look out for the next challenge via [@TSArtDepartment](#) on Twitter.

If you'd like more information, contact Miss Dillon (Lucy.Dillon@tauntonschool.co.uk) and/or Dr Hammer (Lotte.Hammer@tauntonschool.co.uk).

We look forward to seeing how inventive and original you can be.

The Senior School Art Department



Year 2 turn their talents to News Reading



The Year 2 team have been so proud of the Year 2 pupils doing so well with their 'lockdown learning' this half of term. A highlight has been the children pretending to be newsreaders and delivering a news bulletin reporting the theft of a stolen Van Gogh painting. The children carried out the task with such enthusiasm and Mrs Cooper and Mrs Brodie were so impressed with all the videos that were made. Well done Year 2!



The Year 2 Team



Dedicated Dancers

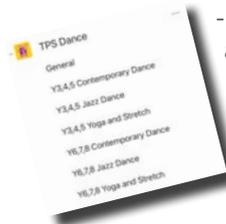
The TPS Dancers have been having great fun online so far this term. They have continued their Jazz and Contemporary dance clubs on Teams, learning fun techniques to continually improve their strength in dance, balance, coordination and more. We have been live each week learning lots of new dance routines to stay inspired. We also wind down on Thursdays with Yoga and stretching after school. We welcome anyone else at home to join the relaxation of these classes, pets included.

The dancers continue to show great passion and commitment to their dancing, with many Dancer of the Week certificates having been awarded each week. We can't wait to

showcase the talent we have in the Online Dance Showcase - coming Soon! The dance classes on Teams are open for anyone to join, so please don't worry if you couldn't make one yet, join us live after half term. If you begin to miss the classes over half term, you can visit the recorded lessons within their individual channels, practice makes permanent, like Miss Hartland-Mann likes to say. We look forward to meeting again online and welcoming other dancers into the online dance community.

What great fun we have, dancing together online (while we patiently wait to move back into the dance studio).

Lucy Hartland-Mann, Dance Teacher

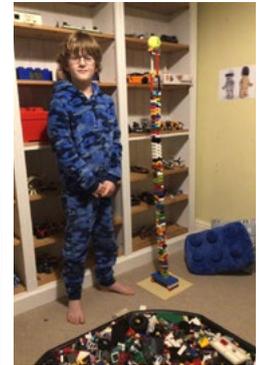


TPS STEM Club Challenges

In the Junior and Senior TPS STEM clubs pupils are given a different challenge every week to complete, then post a photograph on the club channel. Here are some of their impressive creations!

Tower building: Building a Lego tower taller than you that holds a tennis ball

Zoe's Lego engineering (right) is an arm that supports a tennis ball and clamps to a table!



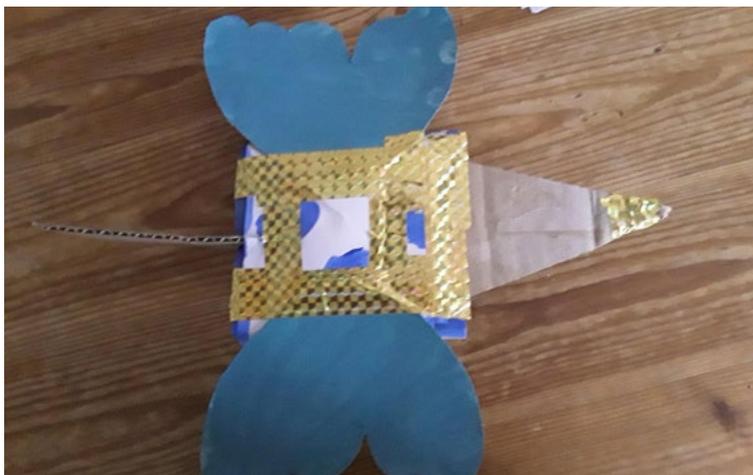
Junior STEM dinosaurs in 3 parts! this challenge was to make a dinosaur from 3 pieces of card! T-Rexcellent!!!!



Bird wing flyers...following a plan to create a flying tube with flapping wings



Senior club building structures from repeated card shapes

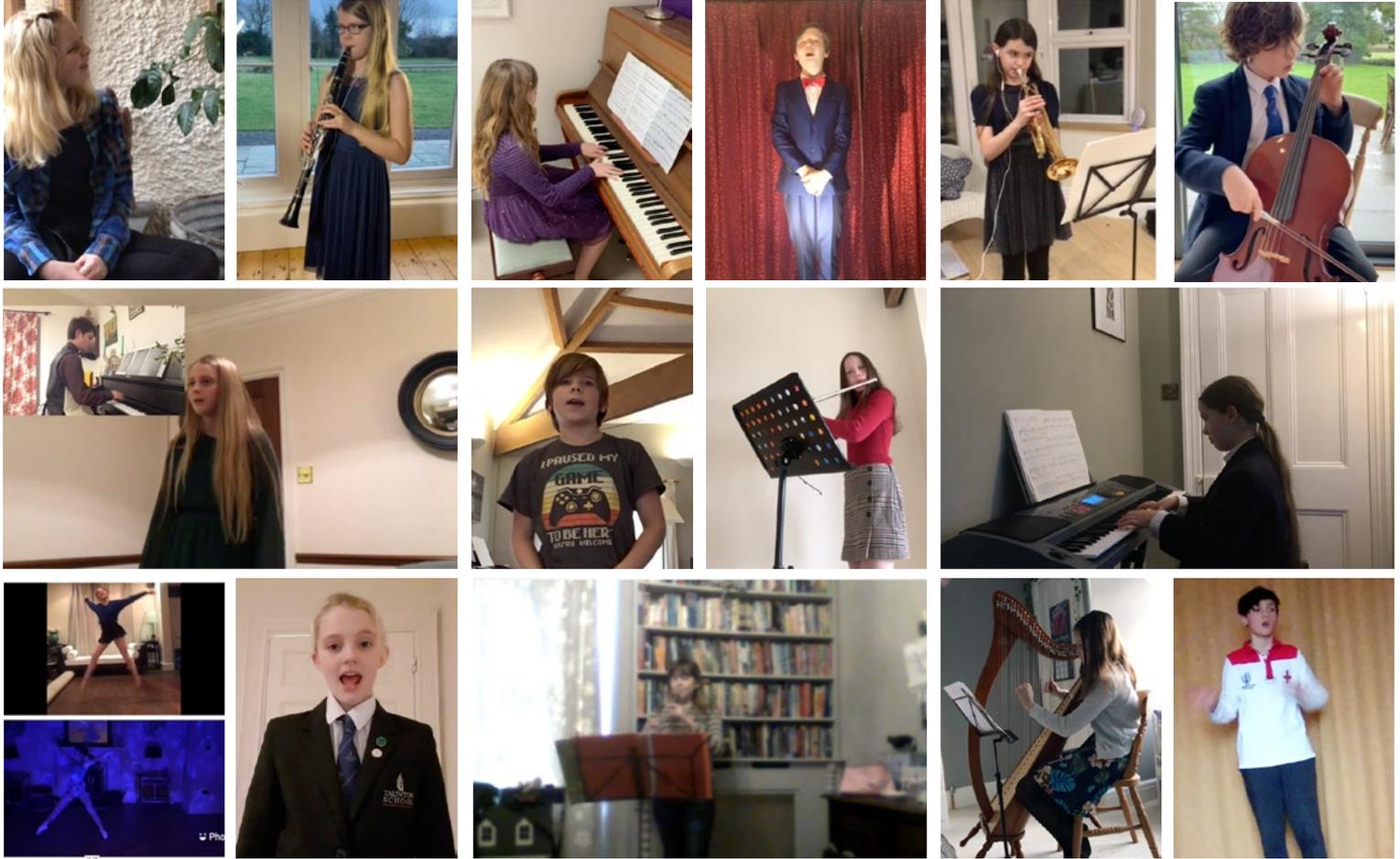


Performing Arts Year 7 and 8 Showcase

Our talented Year 7 and Year 8 pupils put on brilliant shows last week as they remotely performed their Showcase.

Music, dance and drama all featured in a show full of variety.

[Click here to watch the Year 7 Showcase](#)



[Click here to watch the Year 8 Showcase](#)



The Latest Sport News

Super Swimming Success



Despite our current situation many of our school swimmers managed to continue competing before the latest lockdown. Swim England



launched a national level competition ('Level X Racing') to enable swimmers to swim competitively within their clubs across the UK during lockdown. Clubs held official time trials for Swim England to collate and nationally rank the swimmers. Two of our younger swimmers did amazingly well competing for Taunton Deane. James Sercombe achieved a 1st in 50m breaststroke making him the quickest swimmer over two lengths in the country. Alba Davidson also achieved a 1st place in the 50m freestyle, also making her the quickest swimmer in the country. James had more success achieving a 2nd in 50m fly, 5th in 50m freestyle and 8th in 50m backstroke respectively. Alba also achieved a 17th in 50m fly, 5th in the 50m backstroke and 9th in 50m breaststroke. Congratulations to these two for phenomenal results and to our other swimmers who also competed in these events. It shows that talent and dedication can lead to success at the highest level.

Shaun Winsor, Director of Sport TPS

Somerset Schools Cricket

Congratulations to the many TPS pupils who have gained selection to the various age groups within the Somerset County Cricket Club pathway systems. This information has recently been released and follows a series of trials from before the current lockdown. Unfortunately the planned training sessions cannot currently take place but will restart when allowed in preparation for hopefully a long summer of cricket.

PATHWAY CENTRE WINTER TRAINING SQUADS

U10
Lewis Walters
U11
James Baker
Harvey Coleman
Joshua Smith
U12
Emma Mason
Emily Miller
Lola Tarr
Harper Whittaker
Charlotte Webber

COUNTY AGE GROUP WINTER SQUADS

U12
Thomas Gendall
Luca Gregory
Peter McGivern
Theo Winsor
U13
Jack Blackwell
Oscar Coleman
Lily Blackwell
Harriet Phillips

TPS Virtual Distance Challenge

An incredible 479 distances have been recorded over the last week from parents/staff and pupils. Pupils are still in the lead but the parents/staff recorded an extra 592 km over the week to close the gap. After an impressive week by Cooper and Roberts, it is Loveday that still remain in the lead for the House Challenge. The House Distance challenge and the Pupils v Parents/Staff Distance Challenge will be continuing over half term and when we get back (come on staff and parents...)

Pupils v Parents and Staff

Week 5 total distances (using adjustment formula for walk, run and cycle)

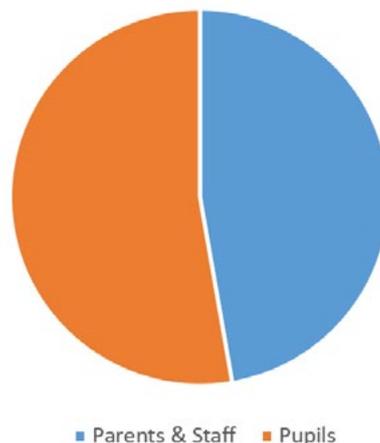
Pupils	4353 Km
Parents and Staff	4945 Km

Overall the pupils are still in the lead by 401km! This means the parents and staff need a gigantic effort next week to close the gap.

End of Weeks 1-5 total distances

Pupils	10180 Km
Parents & Staff	9779 Km

Weeks 1 - 5 Total



House Competition

After going from 1st to 4th last week Cooper are back to leading the way again week (well done to them!). Come on Loveday!

Week 5 results

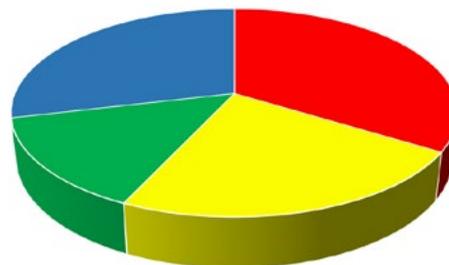
Cooper	687 Km
Dowell	467 Km
Loveday	292 Km
Roberts	583 Km

Totals after 5 weeks

Loveday remain in the lead but the gap is closing.

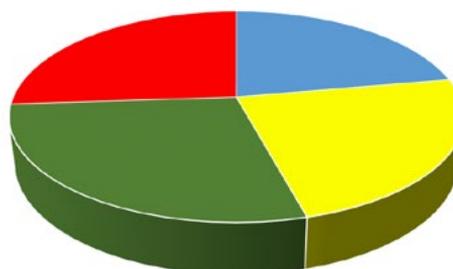
1st	Loveday	2812 Km
2nd	Roberts	2637 Km
3rd	Dowell	2429 Km
4th	Cooper	2302 Km

Week 5 House Results



■ Cooper ■ Dowell ■ Loveday ■ Roberts

Week 1 - 5 House Totals



■ Cooper ■ Dowell ■ Loveday ■ Roberts

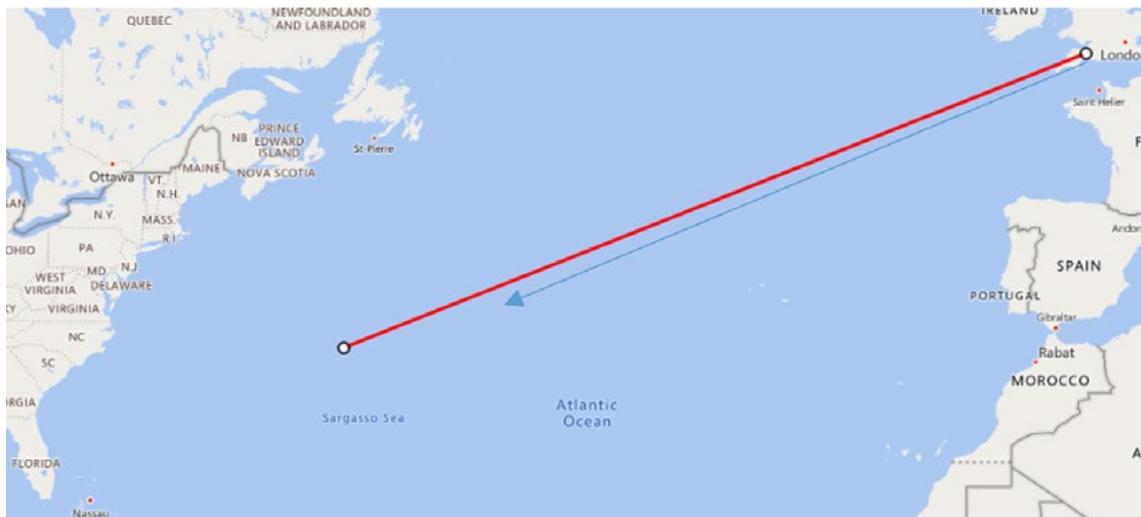
Race to America

To make this more realistic I have not used the formula walk x 3, run x 2 and cycle x 1 to show the final totals. Pupils have so far covered an impressive 4,712km with the parents and staff reaching 3588km

For the Race to America I will only now show the actual distances covered.

Pupils in red – 4712 Km in total (need just 2,000 Km to reach Disneyworld)

Parents in blue - 3588 Km



To ease us back into some inter school competitiveness we have just set up a challenge with a couple of Prep schools around London (Moulsford and Caldicot) and Clifton Prep. This will work alongside our challenge but will only involve the pupils and will be in running and walking. It will be a 'Race Across America'. It will mean pupils will need to input data twice if they go out for a run or walk – one on the exiting TPS Challenge and then on to the Race across America challenge. Other activities such as cycling, fitness, horse riding etc can still count in the TPS challenge only and of course parents need to keep registering their scores. This will start on Monday 22nd Feb and I will send out more information on how to enter data when we return. It would be great to be the first school to make the 4828 kms from San Francisco to New York!

[Click here to log results](#)

Meet The Head of Design Technology TPS, Simon Ashmore

What is your job role and which age groups do you work with?

I am Head of DT at TPS and work with Years 4 to 8.

When did you start at Taunton School and what did you do before?

I started here in September 2003. Before that I worked at Keble School, Winchmore Hill, London, for 8 years and before that, Horringer Court School, Bury St Edmunds, 4 years; and before that Sherborne High School, North Yorkshire 2 years!

What led you into teaching?

Working on summer camp in the USA Camp Manitou for four summers in the 1980s. It was a fantastic experience - I learnt new skills, met some wonderful people and children many who am still in touch with on social media and I have visited several times over the years.

Who inspires you?

My old Head of Department and great friend, Roy Lee at Horringer Court who could always make anything from anything! He was an amazing artist, modeller, potter, guitarist, comedian... I'm still in awe of him after all these years!

What do you enjoy most about your job?

Teaching DT - so many aspects to it! Also working with different students and staff and hearing about students going on to further studies in related areas.

What do you find most challenging?

Teaching DT - so many aspects to it! Plus keeping up-to-date with new processes and equipment.

How do you switch off from work at the end of the day?

I'll go for a cycle ride or doze off! Or chill out listening to loud music!



Quick fire questions now...

Favourite film

It's a Wonderful Life, Kes, Bond films.

Favourite book

Sherlock Holmes novels, Currently wading through Ann Cleeves 'Shetland' books (read four so far).

Hobbies

Painting, cycling, cooking, eating out, travelling.

Any pets?

I did have guinea pigs, several all named after Lord of the Rings characters... until New Year when Frodo left us to go back to Middle Earth.

Favourite singers/bands

The Eagles, Pink Floyd, Glenn Campbell, Stone Roses, Mostly Rock and indie music but I have a very eclectic collection of albums.

Favourite TV programmes/series

The Young Ones, Blackadder, Seinfeld, Cheers, Friday Night Dinner. Documentaries. Crime thrillers, Morse, Endeavour, Lewis

Any claims to fame

I was taught graphics by man at college who designed cars for Audi... Meeting Paul Weller at the boat race...Teaching DT to and having my registers delivered by the captain of Somerset CCC.

A tip for surviving lockdown

Regular exercise, do not get stuck at the computer ...do something you enjoy at least once a day!





Weekly Awards



1st February Awards

Learners of the Week

Helena Goudswaard – for continuing to be independent, resilient and maintaining superb engagement with remote learning.

Freda Levin - for continuing to be independent, resilient and maintaining superb engagement with remote learning.

Emma Mason - for continuing to be independent, resilient and maintaining superb engagement with remote learning.

Benjamin South - for continuing to be independent, resilient and maintaining superb engagement with remote learning.

Myla Tarr - for continuing to be independent, resilient and maintaining superb engagement with remote learning.

William Thomas - for continuing to be independent, resilient and maintaining superb engagement with remote learning.

Alfie Davis - for superb efforts in remote History lessons.

Jed Ben-Chabaane - for taking pride in his work and improving his presentation.

Jack Bruford - for aiming high and taking great pride in his work.

Harvey Coleman - for outstanding, quality, graphics and consistently aiming high.

Connie Burton - for consistently producing high quality work across a wide range of subjects.

Eleanor Thorpe - for approaching all remote learning with a positive and ambitious attitude.

Jacob Linden - for displaying a mature and independent approach in all areas of his remote learning.

Conrad Lee - for showing continued ambition and independence with your French work this month.

Archie Linnell - for an outstanding Igloo construction!

Katie Sercombe - for approaching PRE and History with enthusiasm.

Safa Boraie - for approaching PRE and History with enthusiasm.

Alexander Coombes - for always taking pride within your work.

Learners of the Week

Lexi Beasley - for showing great determination and resilience. Well done Lexi!

Rose Ayrinhac - for showing fantastic independence whilst on-line learning.

Oliver Hill - for showing huge amounts of curiosity in his Roman projects by undertaking independent research and presenting his work in creative ways.

Olive Tarr - for her amazing effort and challenging herself more in her Maths.

Joshua Smith - for great work in the recent topic on forces.

Dulcie Catton – for aiming high and producing extra English writing.

Ruby Cottrell – for an excellent Shakespeare poster beautifully presented and researched.

Isabelle Riley – for an excellent Shakespeare poster beautifully presented and researched.

Oscar Coleman – for an excellent Shakespeare poster beautifully presented and researched.

Sophie Evans – for an excellent effort and beautiful presentation on her diary work.

Heidi Martin – for a consistent high standard of work in DT.

Jack Von Looy - for excellent work identifying different types of bridges.

Finn Hogevoid - for an excellent understanding of the different types of bridges!

Elena Onesti – for excellent work identifying different types of Bridges!

Louie Mansfield - for fantastic engagement, ambition and motivation in his English lessons.

Special Mention

To the whole of Year 8 for working independently and showing great resilience in understanding this term's topic of Climate & Weather.

Sportswomen/Sportsmen of the Week

Rufus Holden - for his excellent shooting success showing skill and determination.

William South – for showing great effort in all his sports videos.

Emily Dempsey – for showing independence when following the sport videos.

Laura Trembath – for her excellent shooting success showing skill and determination.

Dancers of the Week

Matilda White - for showing excellent enthusiasm and engagement in online Dance activities.

Holly Evans - for taking pride in her dancing, showing excellent engagement and enthusiasm.

Sophia Powers - for taking pride in her dancing, showing excellent engagement and enthusiasm.

Actors of the Week

Zachary Roberts - for excellent engagement in online Drama activities.

Wilbur Grundy - for excellent engagement in online Drama activities.

Charlie Vile - for showing confidence and initiative in online Drama lessons.

Musicians of the Week

Harry Way - for performing with confidence in our Performing Arts Cafe video, presenting himself really well and showing pride in his musical skills.

Valentin Bala - for performing confidently and expressively in our Performing Arts Cafe video, showing great skills on the Bassoon after only starting lessons last term.

William Cavill - for showing great confidence in recording and sending a piano piece for our Performing Arts Cafe video, his first performance in one of our Cafes.



Weekly Awards



8th February Awards

Learners of the Week

Liberty Moon – for continuing to be resilient, independent and enthusiastic during English and Humanities lessons in remote learning.

Bobby Saunders - for continuing to be resilient, independent and enthusiastic during English and Humanities lessons in remote learning.

Forest White - for aiming high, taking real effort and pride in his work consistently this term. Forest's non-chronological report is just one great example of this!

Ellie Discombe - for a fantastic portrait drawing in Art.

Monique Du Toit – for an amazing pencil portrait drawing in Art.

Zoe Trembath - for producing consistently excellent work on our topic of Solutions.

Ben Porter - for being positive, ambitious and resilient in his English lessons.

Sami Hallett - for being positive, ambitious and resilient in her English lessons.

Lilly Clews - for being positive, ambitious and resilient in her English lessons.

Eva Di Capua - for being positive, ambitious and resilient in her English lessons.

Robbie Eckley - for producing some top quality work on our recent topic of Solutions.

Wilbur Grundy - for pushing the boundaries of his understanding and producing some great work on our topic of Solutions.

Learners of the Week

Ella Burns – for always trying hard in Science lessons and producing some great work on 'A Population of Wolves and Deer'.

Alex Leach – for working very positively in English and being ambitious with his learning.

Arjun Sathishkumar – for working very hard in the core subjects, producing high quality work, displaying independence and pride.

Evie Linden - for an excellent range of robots, colourful and informative design.

Sophia Powers – for outstanding work, producing a stop motion film incorporating her shelter and making a video explaining her model.

Eloise Bennett - for creativity and aiming high in her creative tasks.

Oscar Sanderson - for aiming high and developing curiosity in his religious buildings research for PRE.

Alexander Pretswell-Pike - for his positivity towards his work and taking pride in the work that he produces.

Joshua Green - for excellent effort across core subjects.

Jack Saxton - for great effort in class and independence in his learning and knowledge of countries in Geography.

Ben Goddard - for excellent attitude and consistent great effort.

Theo Berry – for aiming high and taking pride in his work. Theodore produced an excellent PowerPoint presentation on the rainforest.

Keira Hughes - for an excellent Shakespeare poster beautifully presented and researched.

Learners of the Week

Charlie Taylor - for an excellent Shakespeare poster beautifully presented and researched.

Lucas Baker - for being so focused in the key worker sessions.

Lillia Adams – for consistently displaying fantastic effort and ambition in Maths during the first half of term.

Joseph Lucas - for consistently displaying fantastic effort and ambition in Maths during the first half of term.

Nuria Mariano Soares da Silva - for consistently displaying fantastic effort and ambition in Maths during the first half of term

Olivia Reading - for consistently displaying fantastic effort and ambition in Maths during the first half of term.

Tilly Coomber - for consistently displaying fantastic effort and ambition in Maths during the first half of term.

Peter McGivern - for consistently displaying fantastic effort and ambition in Maths during the first half of term.

Freya Simpson - for consistently displaying fantastic effort and ambition in Maths during the first half of term.

George Craik - for continuing to be resilient, independent and enthusiastic during English and Humanities lessons in remote learning.

Tommy Greenhalgh - for continuing to be resilient, independent and enthusiastic during English and Humanities lessons in remote learning.



Weekly Awards

8th February Awards *continued***Actresses of the Week**

Daisy Greenhalgh - for showing excellent focus and dramatic presence in her performance for our Year 7 Showcase.

Erin Whitelam - For giving an excellent performance for the Year 7 Showcase.

Florence Legg - for writing and performing a fantastic poem, showing amazing creativity, confidence, and ICT skill.

Boarder of the Month

Tanya Gurianova - for settling into Thone well and displaying positivity and kindness.

Special Mention

To the whole of Year 6 for showing resilience and having a positive attitude during remote learning.

Citizens of the Week

Elizabeth Mews - for thoughtfully thinking of others and making wonderful flowers to send to a local residential home.

Edward Wreford - for helping out a friend who was finding a task difficult whilst in school.

Dancer of the Week

Isla Moss - for performing at an excellent standard in our Year 7 Showcase.

Musicians of the Week

Jake Maloney - for making huge progress in confidence and musical skill, showing pride and practising diligently.

Lily Blackwell - for showing excellent enthusiasm and confidence in her music performances.

Sportswomen/Sportsmen of the Week

Harvey Coleman - for effort and determination with the Distance Sports Challenge.

Josie Hanson - for effort and determination with the Distance Sports Challenge.

Brodie Davidson - for effort and determination with the Distance Sports Challenge.

Alba Davidson - for effort and determination with the Distance Sports Challenge.

Jack Bruford - for effort and determination with the Distance Sports Challenge.

Olive Tarr - for showing confidence when taking part in online lessons.

Siddu Chaganti - for showing independence when following online videos.

READING ACHIEVEMENTS**Word Millionaires**

We have our first Word Millionaires. These are pupils who have read, and passed quizzes on, books with a total word count of 1 million using Accelerated Reader.

Genevieve Grundy

George Craik

Josh Green

Myla Tarr

Freda Levin

Book Bingo

Two more pupils have completed their Book Bingo sheet:

Katie Sercombe

Chloe Henderson

This challenge ends on 9th March so there is still time to complete yours!

Well Done!

