



**TAUNTON  
SCHOOL**  
PREPARATORY

# Prep & Pre-Prep Courier



15th January 2021

#REMOTELearning

## Home Sweet Home School



A huge thank you to all the parents for their dedicated support of their children as we transition to home school again. The Year 1 children were excited to learn about the discovery of a mysterious egg in the woods behind their classroom whilst they were away. This initiated the identification of different species that hatch out of eggs. The children wrote imaginative descriptions, using adjectives and similes, of the animal they think will hatch from the enormous egg. We will have to wait and see!

In maths, the children have been using and identifying 2-digit numbers up to 50. They used Lego and toys to count to 50 and back again.

Some children are also continuing their ballet, instrumental, and speech and drama lessons remotely too. A busy and productive start to 2021!

Rachel Lawson

### More Inside

Discovering Van Gogh

Breaking out in Maths

Making dens for teddy bears

Epiphany celebrations

*More photos on page 11*

*Next Prep and Pre-Prep Courier: 29th January 2021*

#STAYINGSAFEATHOME



## The Head has his say...

I hope that you all enjoy this first Courier of the Spring Term, and a very warm welcome to our new pupils and their families who have started at TPS this term - we are delighted that you have joined us!

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 we have already started sending out by email the weekly certificates which are announced in assembly. Thank you very much for the messages of appreciation and thanks which I have received from parents for the quality of our remote learning, and the staff deserve huge congratulations for having set things up so quickly.

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 are being launched. Individual lessons in Performing Arts and in the Educational Progress department are continuing, and we are doing all that we can to provide our children with their usual high quality of education and care despite the restrictions of Lockdown.

Looking back at last term, many congratulations to our Prep School riders and shooters. It was a great pleasure to see so many of our riders competing on 19th December near Glastonbury, and we are delighted to say that our riding team has once again qualified for the National Schools Finals at Hickstead in May. Very well done also to the members of our Prep School pistol shooting team, who performed brilliantly in the South West Regionals, winning our area and qualifying for the Nationals as the third ranked team in the

country. Good luck to all of our riders and shooters for later in the year!

Looking at personal development, every pupil completed at the end of last term a first self-assessment of the year against the 12 words of the TPS Mission. If you have not done so already, please do have a look at the relevant pages of your child's Pupil Planner which will show the coloured-in wheel and some targets for this Spring Term. In addition, teachers have included in last term's Attitude to Learning Grades, a target word from the TPS mission. There is excellent advice in the planner as to how each of the words can be demonstrated, so please do take a look at those in order to enhance your understanding of our aims in relation to the TPS Mission.

**We will be running another Virtual Open Morning over the internet on Saturday 6th February, and I am pleased to report that we continue to experience a large level of interest in places. Looking towards next September, the two forms in our current Year 5 are likely to become three forms, and the three forms in our current Year 6 are likely to become four forms. Such is the demand for places in one or two of our year groups that families approaching us now are having to go onto a waiting list. If you have friends who are considering joining the school in any year group, please do encourage them to attend the Open Morning or to make contact with our Admissions Manager, Mrs Harvey.**

Finally, I would like to 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 this Spring term. Thank you, and I wish you all a restful and enjoyable weekend.

**Mr Andrew Edwards**  
Headmaster



## News from Nursery and Pre-Prep

Welcome to January 2021. We hope that you all enjoyed some lovely family time together over the festive period. On behalf of all the staff here, thank you so much for our incredibly kind Christmas cards and gifts, you were very thoughtful.

As we near the end of the first full week of the school term, we would like to applaud all the parents in supporting your child's return to remote learning. I know this return was swift and that there has been lots of fun and imaginative learning taking place throughout the classes. Your assistance with enabling your child to access their remote content is vital and much appreciated by all the team here, we are also aware how much harder it is to home school over the winter months. On behalf of TPPS, thank you for all that you are doing to limit your child's attendance at school in

order to keep the whole community safe.

We would also like to applaud all the fundraising for St Margaret's hospice before Christmas. We have been contacted by the Hospice to thank the Pre-Prep and our wonderful 'Mums on the Run' for our contributions totalling nearly £3000 for this well deserving charity.

Finally, I hope that both you and your children enjoyed the pictures of the Remote Nativity Performance in this week's County Gazette.

Have a good weekend and a well-deserved break.

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

## A message from the School Chaplain



### Beloved Taunton School Community,

I am writing to you from the Chapel Vestry. It is important that you know that the heart of Taunton School continues to beat calmly and steadily. It is a privilege and a joy to be able to live stream Chapel services during lockdown. It is important for all of us to maintain some sense of continuity in our disrupted lives.

I want to encourage you to be gentle with yourselves and with each other – and to hold your emotions with honesty and respect. Remember that all emotions are holy – even the negative ones. They have so much to teach us. So pay attention to what you are feeling (even if it is very different from what you perceive others might be feeling). We are collectively (even globally) going through a grief process. The basic Kubler-Ross Grief Cycle includes the following 5 stages: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. Some would include the 6th stage of “making meaning”. But wherever we find ourselves, it is important to remember that the process is not linear: it’s a ball of knots that we untangle slowly over time.

The Headmaster has reminded us about the importance of looking after each other. I want to echo that – along with his encouragement that we “see” each other in whatever ways we can. In the Southern African isiZulu language, people greet each other with the words “Sawubona” – which translates as “I see you”. Likewise, “Sanibonani” means “We see you” (plural). We all long to be seen, and heard and understood. Like Mr Glaser, I urge you to see each other.

I have been trying to walk every day. It is important that we keep moving – that we stay grounded and healthy in our vulnerable bodies. Let’s take good care of ourselves and each other during a season that may feel cold and dark. The good news is that we can walk with one other person. We do not have to walk alone.

I leave you with these words that appeared in my inbox today from the Inward/Outward Together Project:

“Dear Child of God, I write these words because we all experience sadness, we all come at times to despair, and we all lose hope that the suffering in our lives and in the world will ever end. I want to share with you my faith and my understanding that this suffering can be transformed and redeemed. There is no such thing as a totally hopeless case. Our God is an expert at dealing with chaos, with brokenness, with all the worst that we can imagine. God created order out of disorder, cosmos out of chaos, and God can do so always, can do so now—in our personal lives and in our lives as nations, globally... Indeed, God is transforming the world now—through us—because God loves us.”

- Desmond Tutu, *God Has a Dream: A Vision of Hope for Our Time*, p. vii

See each other and stay in the peace which passes all understanding.

Rev Getman

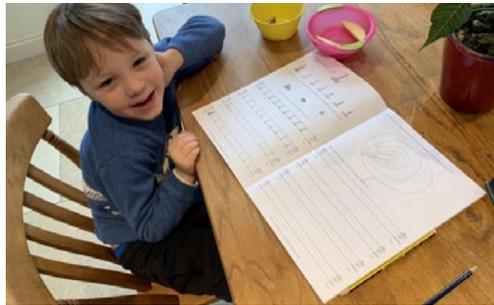


Right: Madison Safer's 9 types of rest

# Reception get stuck in to the New Year

Mrs Wallace and Mrs Jenner are very proud of the Reception children and how they have immersed themselves into their remote learning. The children have enjoyed exploring symmetry in maths and have also been practising their handwriting as well as continuing to learn their new sounds in Read Write Inc.

To kick off their new topic, 'Splish, Splash, Splosh', the children enjoyed going on a winter walk on a hunt for some puddles to splash in. They also received a letter from a lost Mr Bear and have gone on their own bear hunts to find him - keep your eyes peeled!



# Year 3 off to a Flying Start

Remote learning in Year 3 has got off to a flying start and Mr Rowse and Mrs Hill could not be more proud of the pupils. Children have been aiming high and producing work of excellent quality, taking great pride in their work as they did in school. Undeterred by the last minute home learning, the pupils continued with their Roman Craft morning which had been planned as a super starter for their Swords and Sandals topic.

Pupils made shields and helmets which we cannot wait to put on display when we return to school.

In PRE, pupils reflected on how life might be challenging for others at the moment and wrote lockdown prayers and poems. We are very much looking forward to seeing what else arrives in our marking folders over the coming weeks. Keep it up!

The Year 3 Team



Dear Lord,

Thank you for watching down on us during Lockdown. We pray for those who are hungry, lonely and scared. Lord, let them know that you will look after them. Please help those who caught the virus and look after others. We pray for everyone who is working from home and the children learning from home. It is really hard but we can get by. Please look after the doctors and nurses in the hospital. We pray that this bad virus will be over soon if we stay at some and hope that the virus never comes back again.

Amen

(by Gregory, Year 3)

- L**ook after one another
- O**ffer your kindness
- C**onsider helping friends and family who might be struggling
- K**eeep people safe by following the rules
- D**on't give up hope
- O**ur future is positive
- W**hen lockdown is over
- N**othing will stop us from seeing friends again.

By Daisy (Year 3)

# Year 2 explore the wonderful world of Van Gogh

This term in Year 2 we are excited about our wonderful topic of Vincent Van Gogh. We will focus on the artist's beautiful artwork and we look forward to it taking us to all sorts of interesting learning opportunities. The children in Year 2 have made an excellent start to their lockdown learning. We have looked at some of the painter's most famous paintings and the children have made their own paintings of sunflowers inspired by Van Gogh's work.

Mrs Brodie and Mrs Cooper

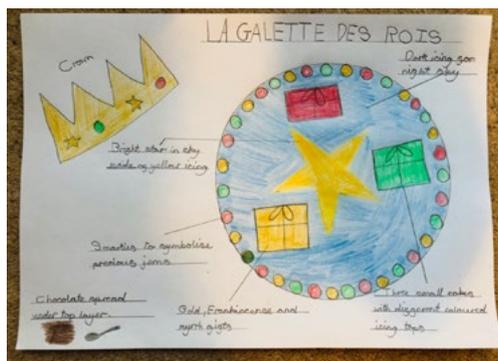
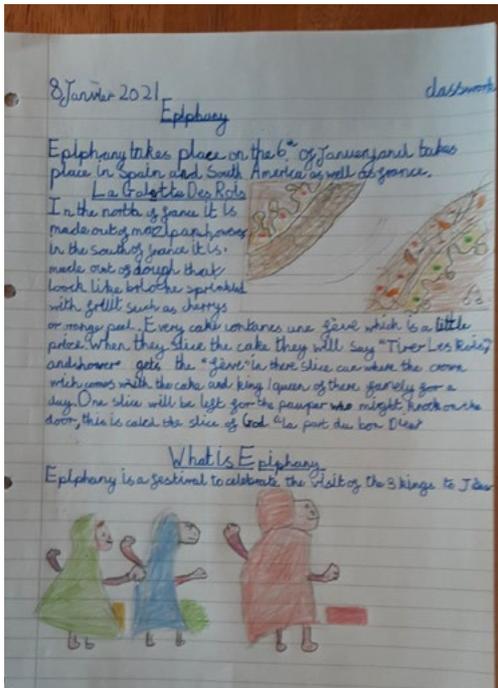
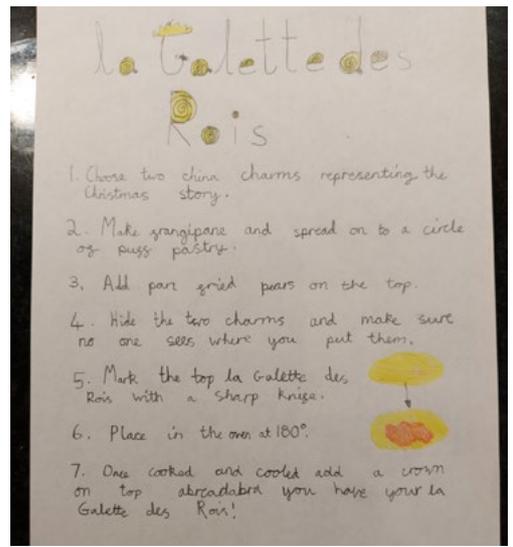


# Celebrating Epiphany - La Fête des Rois

Following on from an interesting and insightful Epiphany chapel service to mark the start of the New Year and the new term, children in Key Stage 2 have learnt about how the festival of Epiphany is celebrated in France. During our French lessons, the children read and learnt about "La Fête des Rois" meaning the Festival of Kings (relating to the Three Wise Men), and the tradition of baking and eating a special cake, called a "Galette des Rois". The

children have produced some wonderful colourful and detailed work explaining "La Fête des Rois". Some young culinary-minded French enthusiasts have even produced beautiful recipes and baked the famous "Galette". What a wonderful way to start Remote Learning! Fantastique! Félicitations!

Sam Baker



# Music Exam Success

Emily Vernon	Flute	Grade 5
Freya Simpson	Piano	Grade 5
Valentin Bala	Clarinet	Grade 4
Madeleine Berry	Trumpet	Grade 3
Harry Way	French horn	Grade 4
Ethan Li	Clarinet	Grade 5
Oscar Coleman	Drums	Grade 4
Katie Sercombe	Clarinet	Grade 5
James Sercombe	Trumpet	Grade 2
Rose Ayrinhac	Clarinet	Grade 1
Jonathan Sibanda-Jenkins	Piano	Grade 1
Alexander Church	Piano	initial
Immacolata Notaro - Livingstone	Piano	Grade 1
Safa Boraei	Piano	Grade 1
Tongfei Deng	Flute	Grade 2
Lucas Baker	Piano	Grade 1
Freya Simpson	Violin	Grade 4
Nyasha Dzvanga	Violin	Grade 4
Juliette Machado	Violin	initial
Destiny Zhemu	Violin	Grade 2
Ava Leach	Singing	Grade 4
Madeleine Berry	Singing	Grade 2
Evie Linden	Harp	Grade 4
Benjamin Hatcher	Trombone	Grade 1
Jack Blackwell	Alto Sax	Grade 2
Joshua Green	Euphonium	Grade 1
Christopher Wallace	Horn	Grade 1
Forest White	Harp	Grade 1
Tongfei Deng	Piano	Grade 3
Keira Hughes	Flute	Grade 1
Lily Blackwell	Alto Sax	Grade 2

Last term, a huge number of children took Music Exams. Many students faced interesting challenges in terms of making recordings to be submitted as part of a remote exam. Some were examined in person. Eight children achieved a Distinction, which is the highest result. Congratulations to Joshua Green, Madeleine Berry, Lucas Baker, Alexander Church, Immacolata Notaro-Livingston, Jonathan Sibanda-Jenkins, Rose Ayrinhac and Freya Simpson for achieving a Distinction.

All the children did extremely well to prepare for their exam performances, showing confidence, pride, and skill. The full results are here and we congratulate all children involved.

Music remains at the heart of our school even in these difficult times. Our Performing Arts Café videos are there for children to take part in and they are released every Tuesday starting next week on 19th January. Please send Dance, Drama, and Music videos to Mr Baker on Teams.



Here are proud brother and sister Katie and James Sercombe holding their Music certificates following successful results. Katie gained a Merit for Grade 5 Clarinet and James a Merit for Grade 2 trumpet. Well done to you both.

If there are any other children who would like to share their examination result, please send through a photograph to Mrs Hornsby.

Jayne Hornsby, Head of Music and Performing Arts



## House Points



### BRONZE

Harrison Perrone – 7W

Parsa Khawaja – 8R

### SILVER

Ted Maloney – 5H



# FITNESS CHALLENGE!



Well done to all students who are competing in their Houses in a bid to cover more distance than a combined team of staff and teachers. After three days of activity, Cooper house has so far covered the most distance!

A walk, run, cycle, horse ride or even a yoga class can be logged - all parents have been emailed details of how to do this.

On your marks, get set, go!

Shaun Winsor, Director of Sport TPS

## Did you know...?

*76% of people say playing sport or doing exercise once a week helps them feel satisfied.*

## Top Tips for keeping fit at home

*by Tim Thompson, Head of Strength and Conditioning, TS*

**SET A TIME** - Book this slot in your diary or timetable. Sometimes leaving it until the end of the day can cause exercise to become like a chore. Find a slot in your day and book it out!

**GET OUTSIDE** - Get some fresh air before starting. This may also help with switching into workout mode by picturing yourself walking into the gym.

**WARM UP** - Don't think because you are at home you can skip this part. You only have one body. Treat it well and it will look after you later on.

**DRINK PLENTY OF WATER** - Keeping hydrated can help you focus, which in turn, will keep you motivated and energised.

**MIX THINGS UP** - Don't complete the same exercise regime every day. You will soon get bored and want to stop. Freshen it up with different movements and intensities.

**PROGRESSION** - Don't settle for the same workout each time, equally, don't try to complete a marathon in day one. Build up slowly and at your own pace. Set goals that allow you to progress weekly.

## Jumping for Joy!

On Saturday 19th December 2020, Taunton School riders were out in force, complete with tinsel and antlers, at the Inter Schools Christmas Grass Roots Showjumping Qualifier at King's Sedgemoor Equestrian Centre. I am proud to say that we had representatives from the Pre-Prep, Prep and Senior Schools across the 8 classes, right from tiny cross poles up to 95cm. The team consisted of:

Rory Foad (TPPS)  
Erin Walters (TPPS)  
Violet Legg (TPS)  
Jess Miller (TPS)  
Florence Legg (TPS)  
Jess Miller (TPS)

Zoe Trembath (TPS)  
Laura Trembath (TPS)  
Eva DiCapua (TPS)  
Tilly Jacoby-Kelly (TS)  
Julia Louw (TS)  
Hetty Holden (TS)

Milly Struel (TS)  
Daisy Stout (TS)  
Poppy Treanor (TS)  
Cecilia Fawden (TS)  
Fliss Gostling (TS)

We had highs and lows with some fantastic results and some spectacular falls culminating in some of our youngest riders qualifying for the regional championships at Moreton in Dorset this coming February (hopefully!). Violet won Class 2 with Rory and Erin coming 5th and 7th respectively, meaning the trio placed 1st overall. Rory came 2nd in Class 3 and Jess was 3rd in Class 4, meaning they go forward as individuals in these classes.

In the higher classes, we had several team placings: Florence, Tilly and Zoe came 2nd in Class 6 with Hetty, Milly and Daisy also placing 6th and our teams were 4th, 5th and 6th in Class 7. Emily Miller won the entire class as an individual which is fantastic given how many entries there were! It was also good to see Cecilia and Jeremy back on form with a top ten placing in Class 7. In the final and biggest class of the day, which went on long past dark under floodlights, Julia, Fliss and Emily secured an impressive 3rd place overall, proving that TS is continuing its upward trajectory in the Equestrian forum. Well done to all those who competed and thanks, as ever, to our long suffering horsey parents who support these events so well.

Watch this space for more Equestrian events this year. Not even lockdown will stop us; the team are taking the opportunity of being stuck at home to train harder and even enter online events.

#hicksteadherewecome

Kate Walters

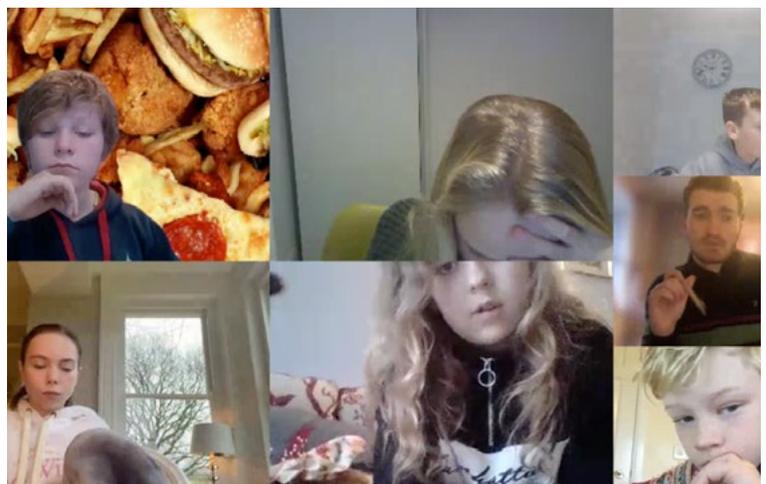
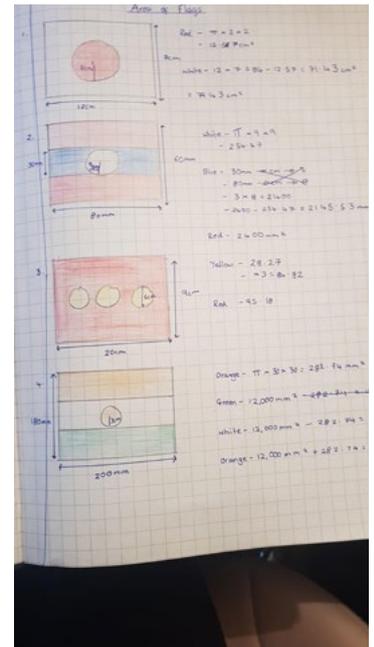
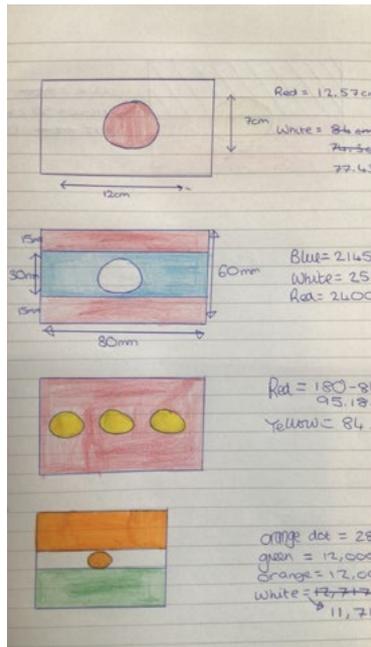
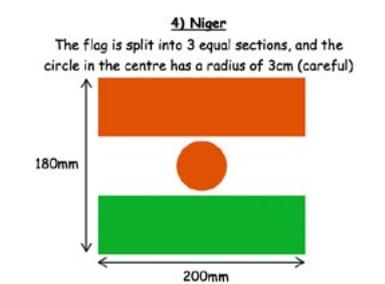
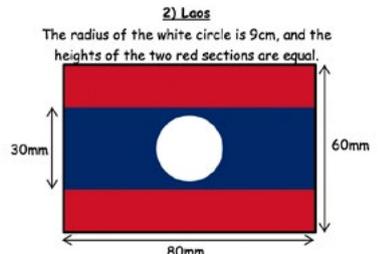
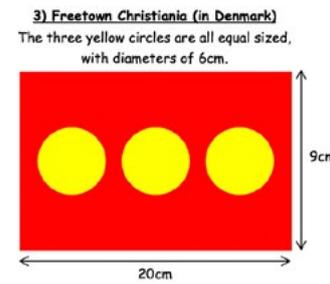
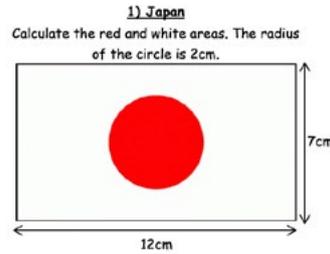
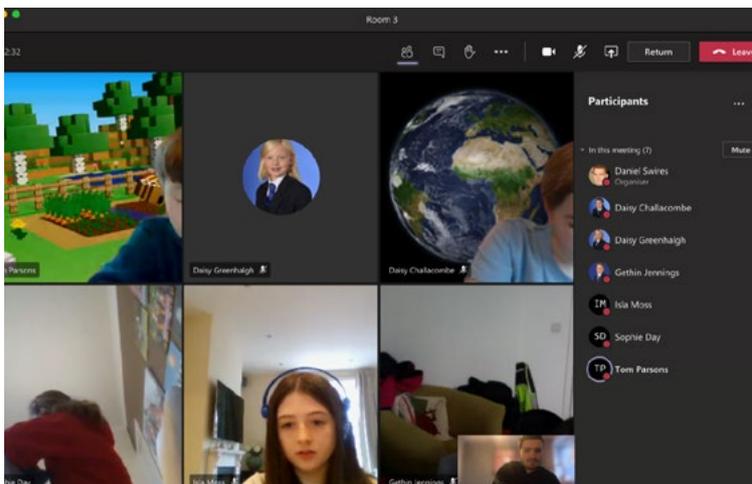
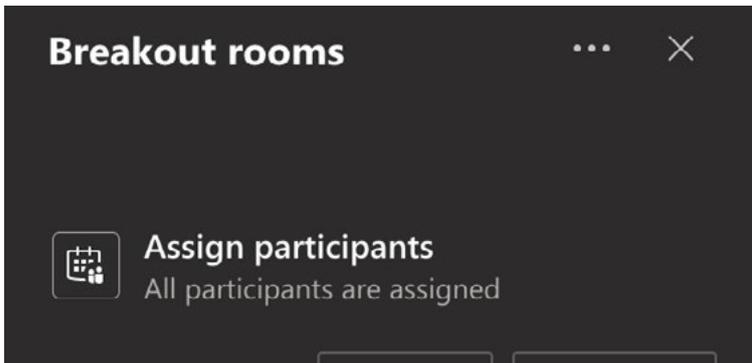
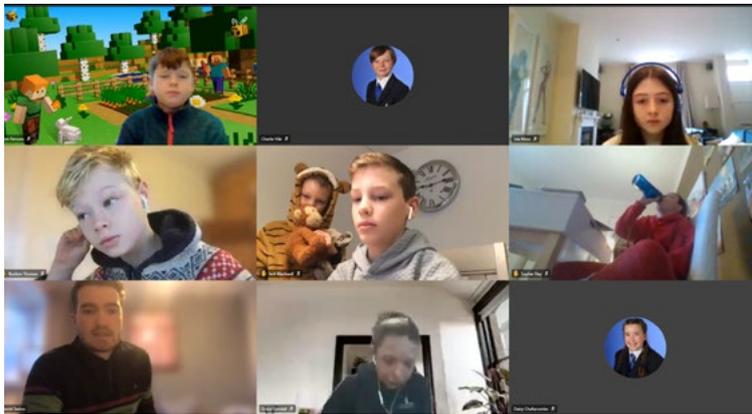
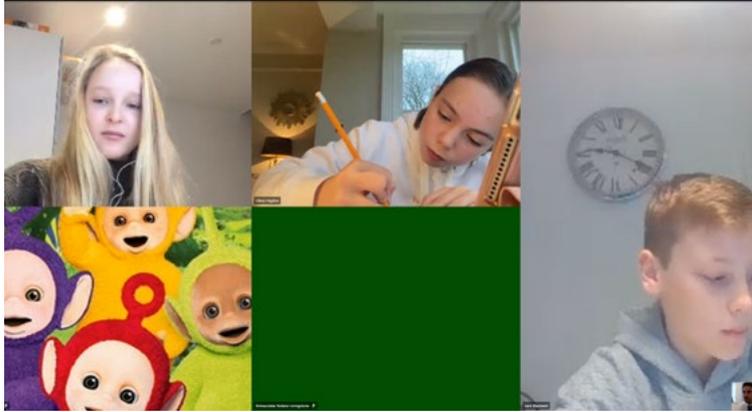


# Breaking Out in Maths

In the Maths Department, Mr Swires tried using Breakout Rooms in Microsoft Teams to aid discussion. Year 7 pupils had to do an investigation to work out the areas of different colours on flags. They were put into breakout rooms so that they could discuss methods and answers with a small group of their peers.

They collaborated beautifully with great discussions taking place. Well done everyone!

Toby Fayers, Head of Maths TPS



# Home Sweet Home School for Year 1

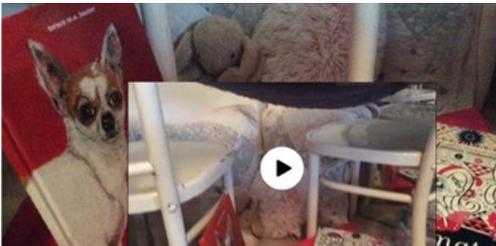
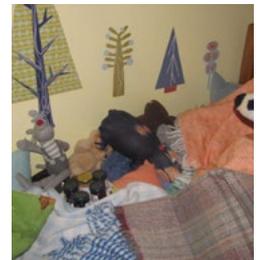
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# Teddy Bear Den Making

Year 3 have been exploring making dens for their teddy bears during their first remote lesson in DT. They had to keep their teddy bear warm, safe and the den had to be stable. Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed this challenge and as you can see the outcomes were superb. Well done, Year 3!

Amanda Hendy



## Meet the Director of Cricket - Pete Sanderson

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

I am Director of Cricket and I oversee the Cricket Programme from Year 3 up to Year 13 for Girls and Boys

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

I coached at Somerset County Cricket Club for 23 years in many different roles including schools county, county youth team coach, Head of District Cricket, Head of Youth Cricket (part time analyst and SCCC coach) before moving to work fully with the professional teams for my last 10 years. I had various roles including Analyst, Batting and Fielding Coach

**What led you into teaching?**

Change in working environment, having worked in a professional cricket club for a long time and a desire to take Taunton School's cricket to higher levels. To be able to work with teams and individual players to maximise their talents and progress into different school roles as I mature!

**Who inspires you?**

What a great question, my inspiration for going into cricket was Sir Ian Botham but my first coach, the late Tony Corner inspired me. Another thing that inspires me is some of the poor coaching, or no coaching, that I have received. Mentally and physically I wasn't the best player but I did not get guidance in these areas and so this drives me to make sure that does not happen to players I coach.

**What do you enjoy most about your job?**

Twofold, one seeing players work hard in the winter and then progress in the way they play in the matches or external county selections they gain, secondly staff relationships.

**What do you find most challenging?**

Adapting to school life, policies, what is Firefly...

**In what ways has cricket at Taunton School had to adapt during the past few months?**

The adaptation has been great, mainly the way the players/pupils have taken the online sessions in their stride.



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

Presently watching every Premiership match (Man United top of the league!), Test and T20 cricket if not playing football, cricket, tennis, chess or cards with Oscar.

*Quick fire questions now...*

**Favourite film** - Point Break

**Favourite book** - Natural Born Leaders, Alex Beard or sporting biographies

**Hobbies** - Golf with friends or children, cricket and tennis when not entertaining

**Any pets?** - Definitely not!

**Favourite singers/bands** - Not really a great music fan but love a bit of One Direction

**Favourite TV programmes/series** - Coronation Street / Match of the Day

**Any claims to fame** Regular appearances in the dug out for T20 matches when Somerset Coach, used to get a lot of grief from friends, good job phone was off!

**A tip for surviving lockdown** - regular exercise, keep to a timetable, call people up and DO NOT do dry January!

*Thanks for telling us about yourself Pete, we had no idea you were a 1D fan!*



## Weekly Awards



## 11th January Awards

**Learners of the Week**

**Ben Goddard** - for a great piece of work on the dangers of smoking.

**Diya Painuly** - for fantastic pride within all areas of her work.

**Forest White** - for aiming high in maths and producing excellent work.

**James Foster** - for excellent effort across all lessons.

**Kikandi Applegate** - for showing fantastic independence in his work whilst online learning.

**Barnaby Roberts** - for showing curiosity in his learning, especially Science this week.

**Oscar Dyson** - For aiming high with his work this week and producing a fantastic prayer in PRE.

**Dancer of the Week**

**Olivia Higdon** - for her positivity and help with the Dance Show last term.

**Sportswoman/Sportsman of the Week**

**Charlie Weatherill** - for showing ambition and pride in his sport this week and submitting an impressive video for this week's challenge!

**Louis Ayrinhac** - for aiming high and showing good perseverance during his online fitness testing

**Aurelia Catton** - for showing great determination and resilience in the online Co-ordination Challenge.

**Alice Boyce** - for excellent effort and independence in her fitness testing, submitting a fantastic video.

**Citizens of the Week**

**Genevieve Grundy** - for being an excellent and welcoming buddy to our new pupil in 5H!

**Isabella Vile** - for being an excellent and welcoming buddy to our new pupil in 5H!

**Katie Sercombe** - for being an excellent buddy by welcoming two new pupils into the form and dealing with any problems or questions they had.

**Safa Boraie** - for being an excellent buddy by welcoming two new pupils into the form and dealing with any problems or questions they had.

**Sophia Heywood** - for being an excellent buddy by welcoming two new pupils into the form and dealing with any problems or questions they had.

**Congratulations to the following girls who have passed their Royal Academy of Dance Ballet Exams:-**

**Holly Evans** - Grade 2

**Maddie Hudgell** - Grade 2

**Ruby Cottrell** - Grade 4



**Well Done!**