



29th January 2021

#REMOTELearning

Cool Coders Make the Most of Lockdown



More photos on page 11

Cool Coding Club has started with a bang for pupils in Years 4-6! If ever there was a club perfectly suited to our current lockdown lives and remote learning – this is it! We have embarked on a mission to complete the Express Course on Code.org, a mere 30 hours of coding tasks and challenges designed to be totally accessible to novice coders whilst stretching the skills of more experienced programmers. Along the way our young coders will create dance animations in time to music; help 'Angry Birds' navigate, catch pigs and avoid TNT!; create and explore 'Minecraft' worlds; and learn many new skills such as predicting where a program will fail, modifying existing programs to solve errors and much, much more. Enthusiasm levels are through the roof and in the first two weeks alone, club members have completed up to 130 levels of the course, created and shared numerous interactive projects and written an astonishing 6000+ lines of code! If you would like some more information or to join the club (Y4-6) please send a message on Teams to Mr Wells.

More Inside

Year 1 Birdwatchers
Weekly Award Winners

Sports News
And plenty more

Next Prep and Pre-Prep Courier: 12th February 2021



The Head has his say...

Before I write today about all of the positive achievements which we are seeing from our pupils at the moment, I should recognise that many of us are feeling that this lockdown is in some ways more challenging than

the lockdown of last Summer. It is of course a different time of year and the novelty factors which provided some excitement and challenge last Summer are not so much in evidence. However, the staff and I are determined to respond positively to the situation in which we find ourselves, and we are constantly spending time reviewing what we are doing and thinking of ways in which we can further support our pupils and families. Changing things up for our pupils, giving them variety, coming up with imaginative ideas for activities are all things which we are working on as we speak. The Prime Minister's announcement that schools will not be re-opening to all pupils until 8th March at the earliest has only served to strengthen our resolve to give our pupils the best experience possible during this time.

We are planning a day with a difference for the pupils before half term with changes to their usual timetable; the music department is working on a project to get as many children, parents and staff as possible to sing "I can see clearly now the rain has gone" (for more details, please follow [this link](#)) there is a family quiz tonight organised by Mr Swires; and the sports scholars took part in a timed treasure hunt last Saturday and are having a virtual hockey match against the Downs Prep School.

Meanwhile, in their work, pupils are responding magnificently. We are awarding large numbers of Learner of the Week certificates every Monday, and teachers are often telling me how well their classes are working. 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. Some pupils are watching TED talks, others are accessing awesome scientific experiments online, and some are using technology to learn new skills.

Over the past two weeks some of our Year 6 pupils have been sitting our 11+ scholarships as internal candidates, and some of our Year 8 pupils have been sitting our internal 13+ scholarships. I am delighted to say that the standard of work and achievement across all of the different disciplines has been extremely high. The feedback from the Senior School assessors has been that this group of Y8 scholarship candidates are up there with the best that they have seen, and this is very positive testimony to the work which we have been doing in the Prep School in recent years to further develop levels of ambition, drive, resilience and academic rigour.

Finally, we have just received the exciting news that we have been ranked 7th in the country by a magazine called 'School Sport', which is a tremendous achievement and another external validation of the very high standards of attainment and progress which we are witnessing at Taunton School. Very well done to all of the pupils and the staff who challenge, inspire and support them.

I hope that you all have a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Mr Andrew Edwards
Headmaster



News from Nursery and Pre-Prep

The month of January can sometimes feel like a challenge after the festive season, and I know that for many, these challenges have been magnified and then amplified in 2021. Thank you one and all for everything that you are doing to support your children

and each other at this unprecedented time. Unfortunately, we have a number of families here who have positive COVID-19 cases amongst their household; our thoughts remain with you all as you face challenges with your health and operating a family, whilst in isolation.

I would also like to thank the parents who have already completed the remote learning survey. Thank you for your feedback and suggestions. We know that we are not always going to get everything right and hope that by gauging your responses

we can work on improving the outcomes for your children.

Thankfully, the children at TPPS are all engaged in their new topics for the term. It is a real privilege to have an oversight of both the teachers' input and the children's work submitted to the staff on Class Dojo. I am always struck by how creative each of the children are at home in their approach to any tasks set. We, as adults, have much to learn from our children, who can be so wise on so many different levels.

Have a good 'Big Garden Birdwatch' weekend if you are taking part in this.

Mrs Louise Leah,
Head of Nursery and Pre-Prep

How do the Taunton School bee hives survive winter?

One of the most important aspects of the winter survival of our colonies is knowing when and how to feed the bees in the winter. Some beekeepers lose their hives in the winter and they blame the cold. Cold weather rarely is the cause of honey bees dying in the winter. They are more than able to make it through harsh British winter weather. The trick is to make sure there are adequate stores of honey and that the hives raise an abundance of new bees in the autumn. Bees raised in the autumn live 4-6 months and take the hive through winter. These bees have a winter physiology different to summer bees, who only live for around 40 days.

Bees don't hibernate during the winter. They gather into a cluster in the centre of the hive and keep themselves warm and alive by contracting their muscles and sharing body heat. The minimum core temperature of a winter bee cluster is above 27 degrees C. Here in The Somerset Brendon Hills in winter, the difference between the outside air temperature and the temperature in the centre of the cluster can be an astounding -5 to 35 degrees C. Fuelling that enormous demand for energy is a diet of extremely concentrated carbohydrates, best found in honey.

By the end of January, long before the end of winter, the energy demands ramp up even further. By this time, the hive colony will have likely already started to raise brood. And unlike adults that can tolerate short periods of cooler temperatures, brood cannot. Brood requires almost constant 32-35 degrees C in order to survive and develop properly.

Since the new brood is often started long before there is any chance of foraging nectar & pollen outside, the strength of the first rounds of brood depends on what was stored in the hive the previous autumn. Even a moderate shortfall will reduce the size of the early brood numbers because fewer will survive to emerge as adults. That, in turn, plays out in successive rounds of new bees throughout the spring foraging & summer seasons. The first bees



that emerge are thus replacements for the soon-to-die, over-wintered bees. If there are fewer early brood survivors, there will be fewer nurse bees to support the main build-up later on in the spring and eventually less honey to harvest in the late summer!

So, in late September, after the honey harvest, we feed the bees' sugary syrup so they can replenish the honey stocks we have taken and sold in school. We check to make sure each hive had lots of capped brood in October and early November, numbers are healthy and that our bees are largely free of varroa mite, treating all hives regardless. We 'heft' the hive through autumn to estimate the weight of winter honey stores. Experience gives us a feel that there is enough honey stores and how much additional syrup we should give them. Then in winter we try not to open the hive too often and then only on warm sunny days. After a cold spell like recently we heft the hive again & if we think it a little light we feed with fondant, a hard more solid food that winter bees can more easily digest. By doing this we hope our hives will remain strong in the remaining winter weeks. We help ensure there will still be a store of honey for the all-important new brood and that they will be ready for the spring and early summer foraging season.

Gabriel McCarthy & Mr McCarthy
- Covid Lockdown Custodians of the
Taunton School Beehives





Music Matters

Sometimes we notice how much something means or matters to us when it is taken away. Live music and live in-person performance has been largely missing from our lives as we have lurched in and out of lockdowns throughout this past year. Many of our efforts in terms of music as a school community to try and fill the aching void that the restrictions of this pandemic has left us with have been remarkable and truly heartening to watch. Think of our many Performing Arts Café videos throughout the Summer Term last year, as well as many music projects in our school and in the Senior School, brought to life and brought together by the wonders of technology and by our persistence and dedication.

This year has shown us more than ever, or perhaps reminded us, that music matters so much in our lives. Technology will never replace the wonder that live in-person music performance can bring to our lives. Countless scientific studies have shown that a music education brings huge psychological and cognitive advantages to a child's development. Through music, a child develops amazing skills and lasting friendships, not to mention incredible resilience and confidence through live performance.

During the next few editions of The Courier, this column "Music Matters" will uncover some of these special powers of music as experienced by some of the most talented musicians at TPS who will share with you what music has brought to them in their lives so far. The first interviews are with Freya Simpson and Ethan Li, two scholars who have been learning the piano, violin, and clarinet for the past 5 years. This will be published in the next edition of The Courier.

Sam Baker, Music Teacher and School Organist



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...

School Council News

On Monday, more than 20 members of our TPS School Council were able to meet for a productive virtual meeting. Pupils from across the age range were confident to speak in front of their peers and eloquently brought many of their fantastic ideas from their Form Time discussions last week. Using the TEAMS breakout room functions, pupils could work in small groups across year groups to refine their thoughts before sharing with the rest of the group. It was lovely to hear the pupils chat away about what is working well for them and to hear ideas from a pupil perspective about what could make their experiences even better. It would appear the staff and pupil fitness challenge is proving a particular hit, there was a call for Mr Coleman's Friday Night Family Quiz to return and pupils wish to see their teachers don more wigs and sunglasses whilst teaching. Watch this space...

Katie Hill, KS2 Teacher and Head of Pastoral Years 3 and 4

A Year of Press Ups

Could you do 20 press-ups a day for 52 weeks?

That is the challenge a member of our Taunton School community set himself last year to raise money for Taunton Open Door - a local organisation which provides support to the homeless.

John, who is the husband of our Thone House Matron Raj, has today completed that challenge and has so far raised over £5000 for the charity.

If you'd like show your support for John and donate, you can do so here: <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/JohnMarshall46>



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.

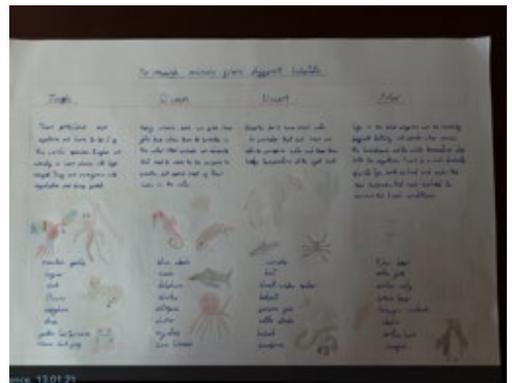
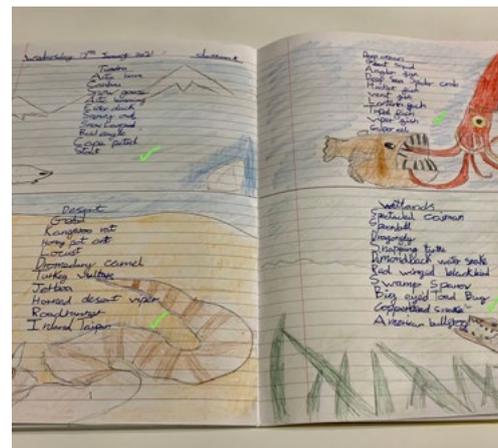
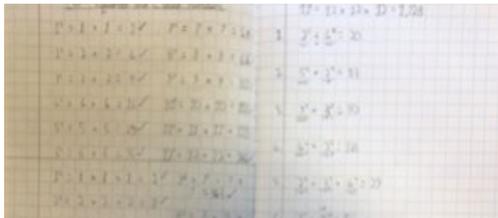
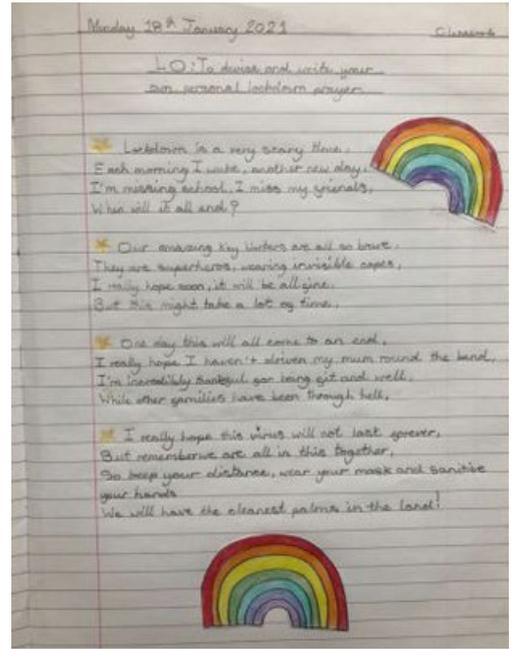
The Senior School Art Department



Year 4 show Thirst for Learning

Year 4 have been working extremely hard, producing some fantastic work linked to their topic of 'Ice Worlds', as well as Habitats and their associated ecosystems in Science. We also read some beautiful 'lockdown prayers'. Their thirst for learning has been infectious and we are very proud of them!

The Year 4 Team



Year 3 and 4 Cookery Club



We got off to a great start this term with 14 Year 3 and 4 children (and a few extra family members!) joining in on a Teams call to make shortbread. We practised 'rubbing in' – a technical term for mixing the butter with the flour and sugar together using your fingers. Then we carefully rolled out the dough with the children cutting out a variety of shapes from stars to unicorns to penguins to bears. Jessica Miller in year 4 described them as 'super duper yummy' and gave her shortbread biscuits five stars. Our next bakes will be chocolate chip cookies and then scones- message Mrs Thorpe if you are in year 3 or 4 and would like to join in!



Caroline Thorpe



Well done Nursery 4

The children have continued to make us so proud with their online learning, making frog counting books, writing sounds on paint bags and in rice and finding out our date each day as well as shape and number hunting. They have also made patterns and a playdough sounds computer!

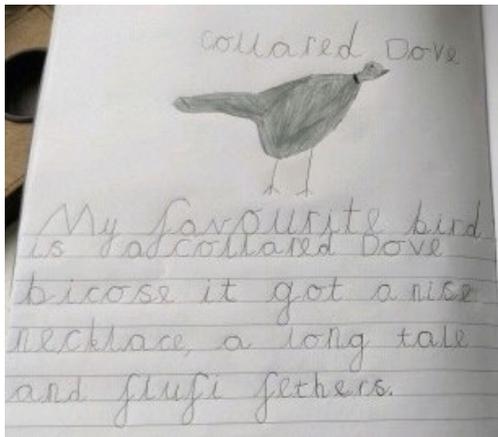
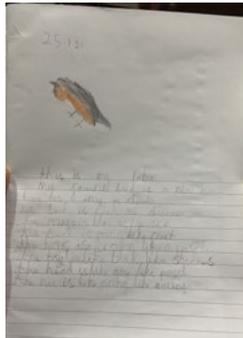
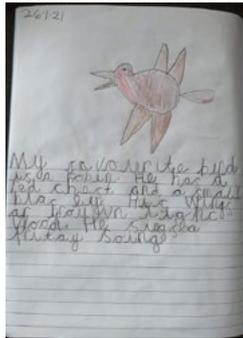
The Nursery 4 Team



Year 1 Bird Watchers

The Year 1 children have been busy preparing for the RSPB Bird Watch event this weekend (29th-31st January). They learned to identify a variety of garden birds and set out, with their binoculars, on bird spotting walks. By looking closely at the birds' individual features, the children were able to create beautiful drawings and describe their favourite bird, using adjectives and similes. The children also learned how to attract birds to their gardens by making, or filling existing, bird feeders. We watched a funny video showing a bird's favourite daily menu (worms or spiders anyone? no?). Thank you, to all the parents supporting their children at home, none of this would have been possible without your dedication. Have a look at the beautiful pictures the children have drawn, in our Garden Bird Gallery.

Rachel Lawson



Remarkable Reception

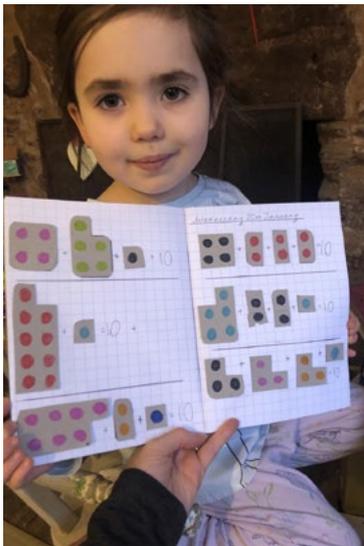
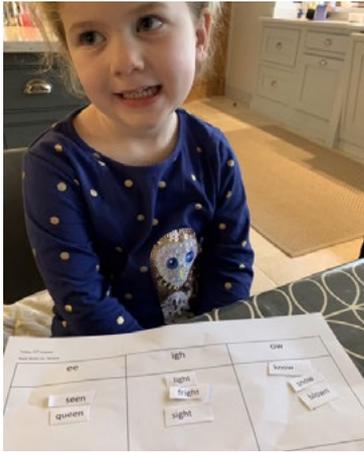
Reception have had a busy few weeks enjoying their remote learning activities. Mrs Wallace and Mrs Jenner have enjoyed receiving pictures and videos of all their wonderful home learning.

After luckily finding Mr Bear on their bear hunts, the children have enjoyed learning the story "We are going on a bear hunt" and have created some brilliant story maps to support themselves with the retelling of the story. This week, they are busy changing the bear to a new character of their choice to create a new story. It's been wonderful to hear their new creations such as; "a unicorn hunt", "a wolf hunt" and "a giraffe hunt".

In Maths, Reception have been working hard to develop their addition and subtraction skills. They have been using objects to help them record their number sentences.

In addition to working hard with their Maths and Literacy, the children have been busy practising their sounds, handwriting and taking part in some super Science experiments.

The Reception Team



House Points



BRONZE

- Harper Oliver-Whittaker – 7W
- Grace Gendall – 7W
- Alex Leach – 6C
- Bryn Graddon – 7C
- Peter McGivern – 7C
- Reuben Thomas – 7C
- Laura Trembath – 7C
- Charlotte Webber – 7C
- Alexa Wiltshire – 7C
- Rufus Holden – 7B

SILVER

- Jessica Miller – 4C
- Heidi Martin – 6T
- Ben Leahy – 6T
- Barnaby Roberts – 3R
- Ted Wreford – 3R
- Elizabeth Mews – 3R
- Thomas Gendall – 7W
- Samuel Martin – 3H
- Sophie Day – 7W
- James Sercombe – 4F
- Harrison Webb – 4F
- Tom Parsons – 7C

- Charlotte Perrone – 3H
- Dylan Simmons – 3R
- Florence Legg – 6C
- Saffron Masters – 6C
- Zachary Roberts – 7W
- Amarra Bevis – 7V
- Nicolas Du Toit – 7V
- Louie Mansfield – 6T
- Matilda White – 6T
- Eloise Bennett – 3H
- Tilly Coomber – 7V

GOLD

- Daisy Challacombe – 7B

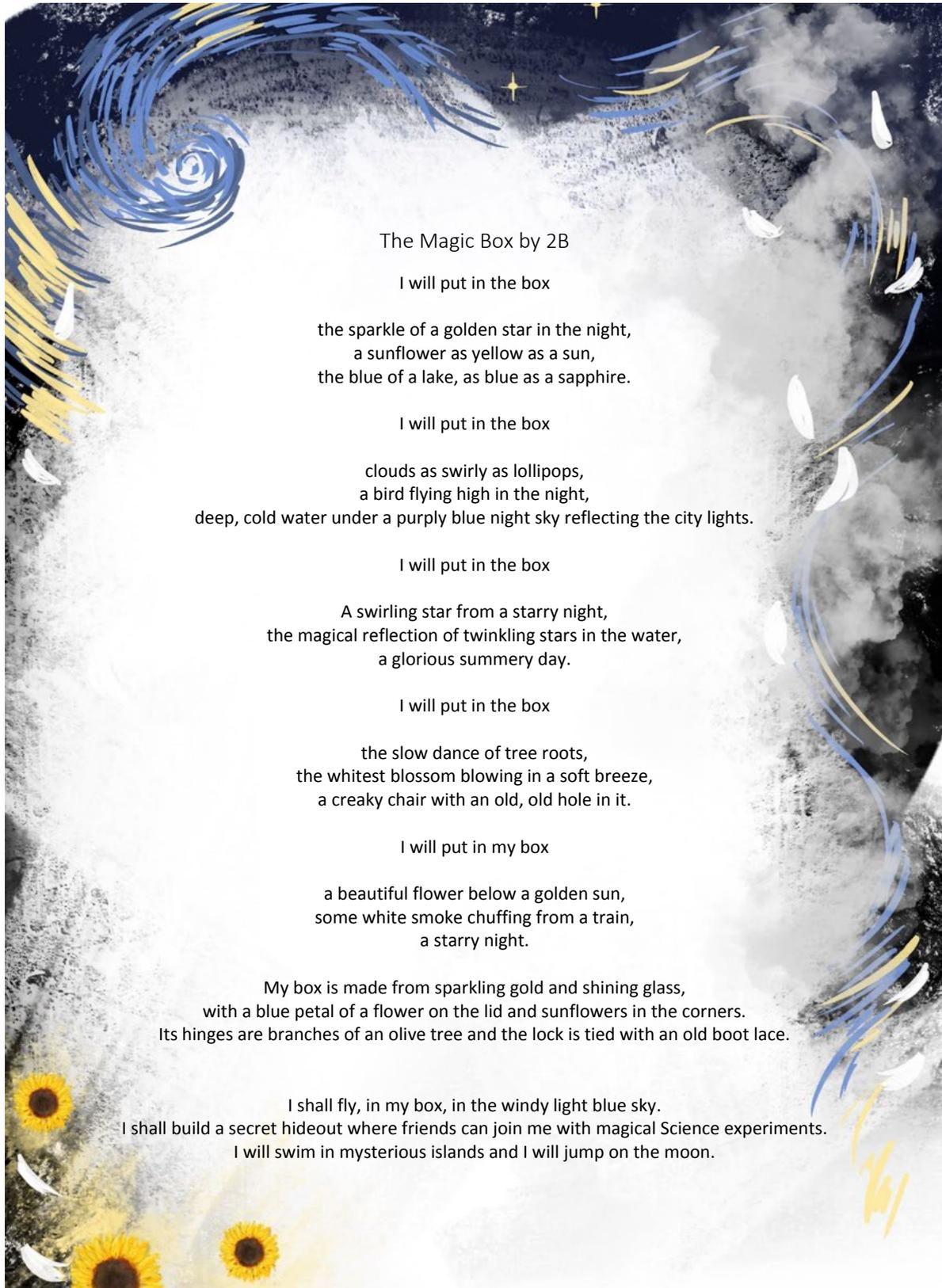
Year 2 Magical Poems

Last week, Year 2 wrote the most outstanding poems in the style of 'The Magic Box' by Kit Wright. The children looked at the paintings of Vincent Van Gogh for inspiration and then wrote their own. Impressed by the poetry skills of the children, Mrs Brodie and Mrs Cooper then took a line from each individual poem to create a class one.

It is lovely to have created something together, despite being apart.

Mrs Cooper, Mrs Brodie, Mrs Harnett and Mrs Lang.

The Year 2 Team



The Magic Box by 2B

I will put in the box

the sparkle of a golden star in the night,
a sunflower as yellow as a sun,
the blue of a lake, as blue as a sapphire.

I will put in the box

clouds as swirly as lollipops,
a bird flying high in the night,
deep, cold water under a purply blue night sky reflecting the city lights.

I will put in the box

A swirling star from a starry night,
the magical reflection of twinkling stars in the water,
a glorious summery day.

I will put in the box

the slow dance of tree roots,
the whitest blossom blowing in a soft breeze,
a creaky chair with an old, old hole in it.

I will put in my box

a beautiful flower below a golden sun,
some white smoke chuffing from a train,
a starry night.

My box is made from sparkling gold and shining glass,
with a blue petal of a flower on the lid and sunflowers in the corners.
Its hinges are branches of an olive tree and the lock is tied with an old boot lace.

I shall fly, in my box, in the windy light blue sky.
I shall build a secret hideout where friends can join me with magical Science experiments.
I will swim in mysterious islands and I will jump on the moon.

Year 2 Magical Poems

The Magic Box by 2C

I will put in the box

the breezy wheat billowing on a Summer's day,
a sunflower as yellow as hay,
the friendly smell of a peaceful town with children laughing all around.

I will put in the box

a beautiful white, velvet, delicate petal of almond blossom,
a whisk of a stormy night blowing in the wind,
the blue door in the corner of the old fashioned bedroom.

I will put in the box

the shining red claw of a crab and the salty scent of the sea,
a wooden creaky boat waiting in the ripply waters,
some snowy white blossom and a golden vase.

I will put in the box

a flash of sunshine in the corners,
wood shavings from a chair,
the howl of a wolf on a steep, dark mountain side at dawn.

I will put in the box

the sound of people chattering like humming music,
some sparkly sapphires and seashells,
the quiet blue sky.

I will put in the box

a tall twisted tree from the creepy, creaky wood,
some twinkling stars from the night sky,
a shimmering petal from a silky white rose.

My box is made from the sweet smell of Autumn blossom
and sparkling swirling stars from a midnight blue sky.

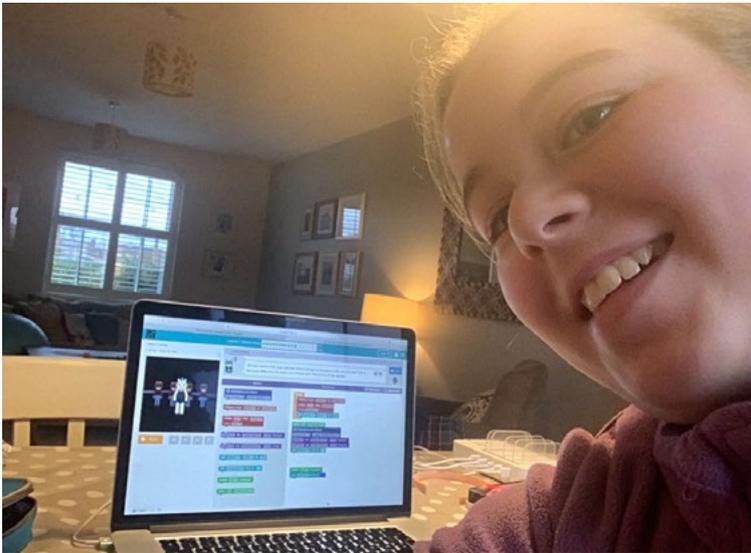
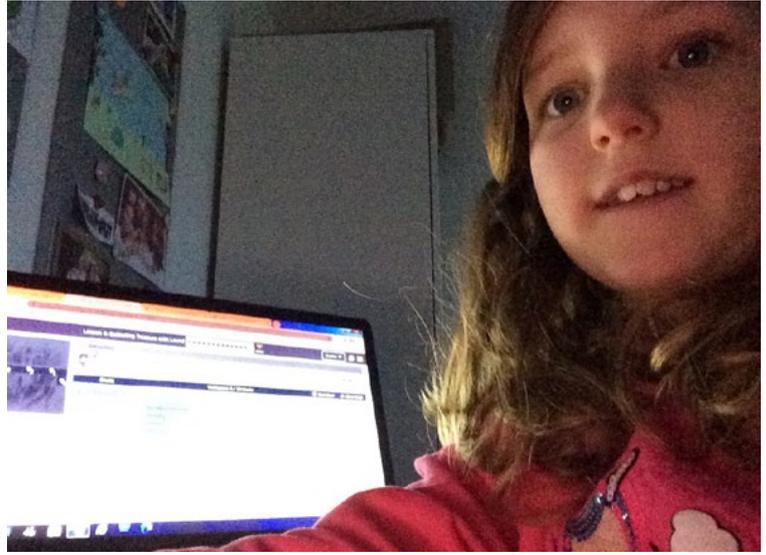
The key lock is made from moon light

I will travel in my box to an enchanted wood
where I will meet a dragon and befriend the little folk.

I will leave my box in a poppy field next to my house
where I can visit it every day.

Cool Coding Club

(continued from front page)



Storytime: The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse



Enjoy a perfect tale for our time as we enter the world of Charlie's four unlikely friends, discover their story and their most important life lessons. A tale of hope for uncertain times and Waterstones 2019 Book of the Year by author Charlie Mackesy, *The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse* is a lovely one for parents to show to their children.



Watch the full bedtime story version here: <https://bit.ly/TPSSStorytime1>



Foodboxes for local NHS hospital staff



The school are supplying 300 boxes a week to Musgrove Park Hospital in Taunton to support frontline NHS staff working throughout the pandemic.

Starting this week, the food parcels are being delivered to the Well Being Hub at the county's largest acute hospital. Providing a nutritiously balanced meal, they be available to staff 24 hours a day.

The meal boxes have been made possible thanks to the philanthropy of a former student and will be freshly prepared daily by the school's in-house catering team.



During the spring lockdown last year, some 2100 meal boxes were delivered by the school to the hospital and it is hoped this figure will be exceeded this time around.

Graeme Barclay, TS General Manager says: 'We are delighted to once again be able to donate these meal boxes to the fabulous team at Musgrove Park Hospital as a thank you for the selfless work they do each and every day. As a school, we strongly believe in the importance of giving back to our local community, especially during such a challenging time. It was wonderful to hear words of appreciation from staff when we made the first deliveries this week.'

TONIGHT! Friday Night Quiz Night is Back



Want to get your family brains together to have a chance of topping the prestigious TPS Family Quiz leader board? Mr Swires has kindly agreed to run the weekly quiz that will start tonight, Friday 29th January. This will run each week (apart from half term) until further notice. There has been a new Teams channel created. Pupils will need to access the quiz through this newly created Teams channel to get the code to use on Kahoot. The quiz will be open to complete between 4-8pm.

Good luck quizzers!

Shaun Winsor, Director of Sport - TPS

Marking Holocaust Memorial Day



The week in Chapel, our Chaplain Eliza spoke to the students about Holocaust Memorial Day, marked each year on 27th January. It was on that date in 1945 that the Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau was liberated by Soviet troops.



Initiated by the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, it serves as a reminder of the 6 million Jewish lives lost during the atrocity.

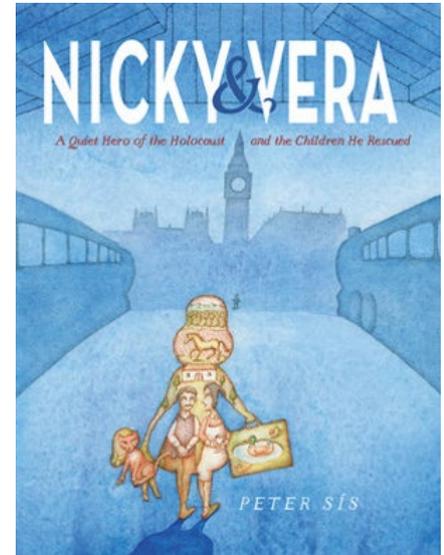
The theme for this year is 'Be the Light in the Darkness' and seeks to highlight the ways that individuals and communities have resisted darkness before, after and during genocides.

Despite the very different challenge the world is facing at the moment, the theme has relevance to the darkness we are all witnessing daily as we live through a global pandemic.

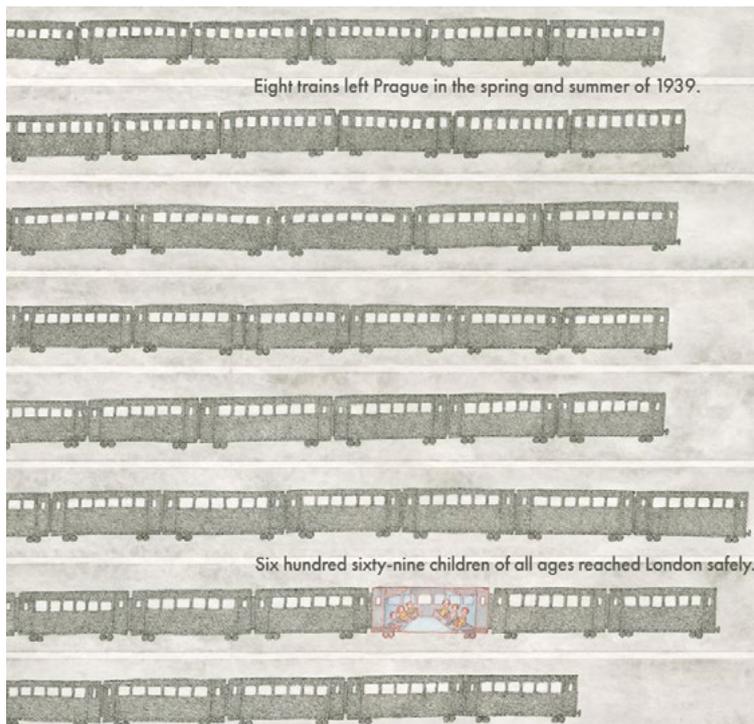
Eliza referred to the words of Amanda Gorman, the American poet who recited her poem 'The Hill We Climb' at the inauguration of President Biden last week. She shared the lines, 'And even as we grieved, we grew' and 'There is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it, if only we're brave enough to be it.'

She introduced the children to the beautifully illustrated book 'Nicky and Vera' which tells the incredible story of British humanitarian Sir Nicholas Winton, who saved the lives of 700 children trapped in Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia by bringing them to London by train.

The children were urged to remember we are a school where huge value is placed on being caring, principled and embracing the identity and culture of others. Eliza ended with a prayer.



**May God bless you, wherever you are,
and may God bless all those whom you love, wherever they are.
May God give you today hope, love and light.
Be brave enough to be the light you wish to see in the world.
Amen.**



The Latest Sport News

TPS Pistol Team qualify for National Finals

The pistol team have still been hard at work and have qualified for the National finals. Competing in the recent Regional finals the team had some amazing results. They achieved a 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 6th in the individuals. No surprise the team finished 1st for South West Region. They are currently placed 3rd nationally. National finals will take place over a live video feed.

Team: Zoe Trembath (1st), Laura Trembath (2nd), Rufus Holden (3rd), Emily Miller (6th)

Team placed 1st overall

Read more here: <https://www.britishshooting.org.uk/article/1756>



TPS Distance Challenge

We are now towards the end of week 3 of the challenge. The last 10 days has seen a flurry of activity with 766 entries received!

Special mention to the following pupils who have multiple entries over 10 this period.

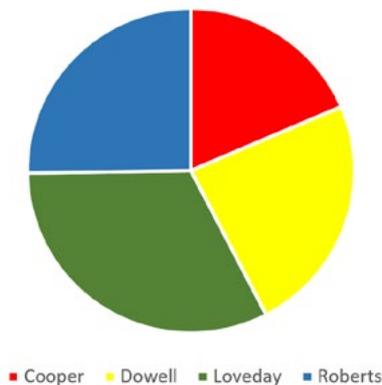
Alice Boyce, Ben Goddard, Frankie Hanson, Harvey Coleman, Josie Hanson, Laura Trembath (29!), Louie Mansfield, Olivia Brackstone, Tilly Coomber, Zoe Trembath (40!).

Out of the 247 parents/staff entries, congrats to parents brave enough to add their names: Awofisayo, Imm, Mansfield, Wiltshire, Hudgell.

House Scores:	
Cooper	1215315
Dowell	1561939
Loveday	2119923
Roberts	1653924

Loveday have gone from last to first with Cooper going the other direction!

Pupils Scores End of Week 3

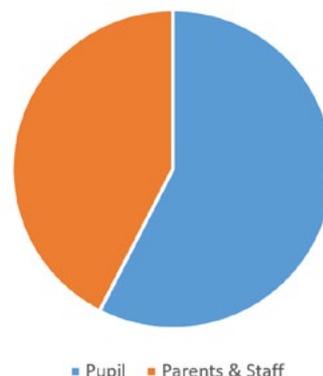


Pupils v Parents and Staff

Congratulations to the students who have now taken the lead fairly convincingly. Come on parents and staff. Keep logging your results!!

Pupils	6551101
Parents & Staff	4834284

Pupils v Staff/Parents Challenge Week 3

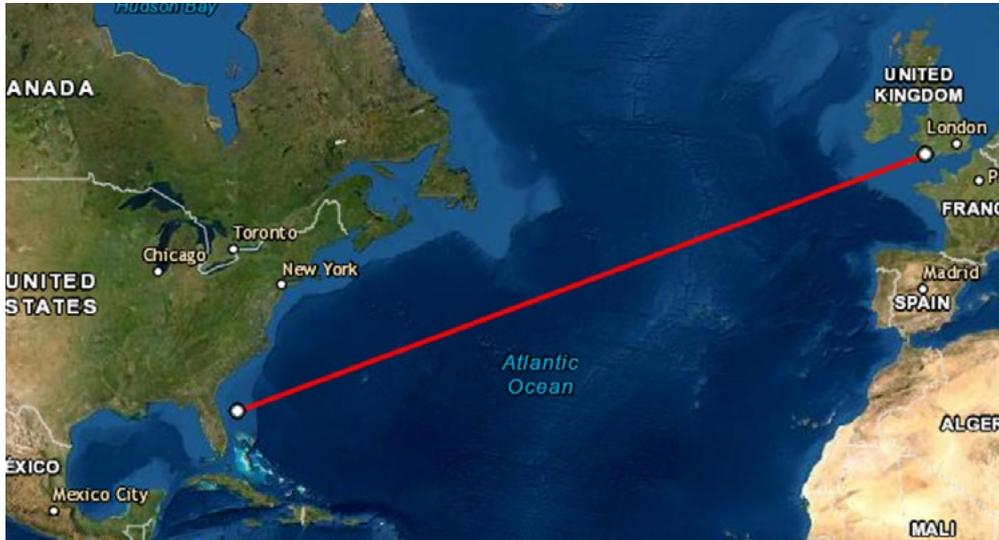


Race to Disney, Florida

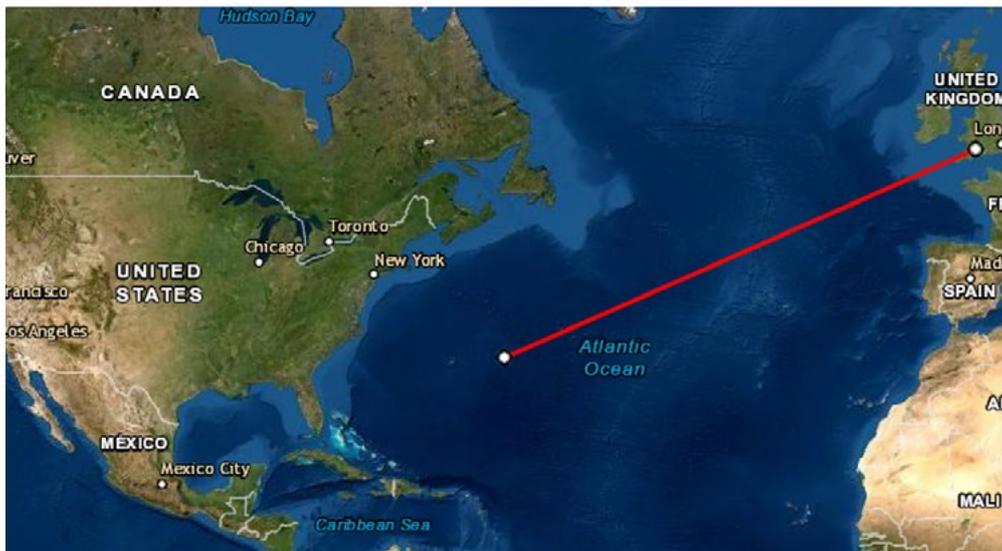
Using the adjustment of cycle x 1, run x 2 and walk x 3, the following shows that the pupils are almost there.

1st stop Florida!

Pupils Distance: 6550 KM



Staff and Parents: 4834 KM



Next stop is...



[Click here to log results](#)

Taunton School ranked among top in country for sport.

We are thrilled to have been ranked as the seventh best school for sports in the country by Schools Sport Magazine in its annual list of the top 200 schools.

So many staff contribute to our sports programme and this accolade is testament to all their dedication and enthusiasm. Sport is thriving at Taunton School even now in remote learning. A massive thank you and well done to everyone!

Shaun Winsor, Director of Sport for the Prep School, says: "It is great to have some positive sporting news and recognition for our students and staff, particularly in the midst of a challenging period for school sport. I am incredibly proud of all the students who worked so hard last year representing the school and also our past students who have continued their sporting journeys with great success into the Senior School and beyond. I look forward to seeing, very soon, every pupil competing on the sports field once again."



'No. 7 in the Top 200 Sporting Schools of 2020'

School Sport Magazine

TPS Community Production - We Need YOU!

We would like ALL of our TPPS & TPS family to help us out with a wonderful new project we are working on with our marketing team. For February half term we are creating a Taunton School version of the famous Jimmy Cliff Song 'I Can See Clearly Now' (<http://bit.ly/TPSClearlyNow>)

All of our TPS students have been contacted to help us with the music, dance and instruments; however we also want lots of lovely extra content sent in. This can be anything that makes you feel happy.

- **Climbing a tree**
- **Playing with your pets**
- **Having fun with your family**
- **Doing exercise**
- **Playing a board game**
- **ANYTHING!**

We are encouraging all of our teachers, students and their families to get involved.

All you have to do is send a short video of you doing 'whatever makes you happy' to Mrs Hornsby or Mr Baker over Teams, no later than Saturday 6th February.

Please do join in with this lovely new project. We would love to see as many faces as possible.



A message from our Head Girl and Head Boy



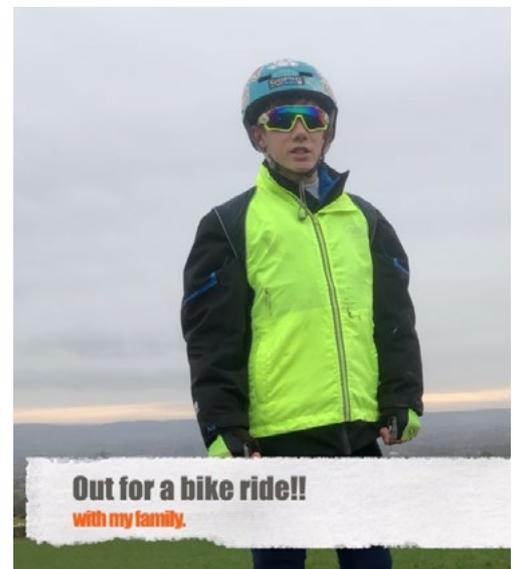
Our Prep School Head Girl Takara and Head Boy Oscar have made brilliant videos with top tips for remote learning and a message of encouragement for their peers.

We are so proud of all our pupils for how well they have adapted to a different way of learning and thank Takara and Oscar for being great role models.

Watch their motivational films by clicking here.

[Head Girl Takara's Film](#)

[Head Boy Oscar's Film](#)



Meet Assistant Head Pastoral & Head of History, Joanna Hall-Tomkin

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

I am Assistant Head Pastoral and Head of History at TPS.

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

I started at TPS in Jan 2015; before that I taught at The Park School in North Devon and St Cuthbert Mayne School in Torquay

What led you into teaching?

I have always loved History and wanted to enthuse students to have a lifelong interest in it. I also enjoy helping children to deal with issues that worry them as I believe everyone should feel happy and safe at school.

Who inspires you?

My Parents: my dad taught my brother and I to always stand up for what we believe in and instilled in us a love of books. My mum taught us the importance of kindness to others.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

The daily interaction with pupils and feeling that I have hopefully helped them to feel happy at school, so that they can fulfill their true potential.

What do you find most challenging?

At the moment, I miss the face to face interaction with pupils, colleagues and my friends!

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

During the week, a dog walk with my two miniature dachshunds Darcy and Herman. At the weekends, a walk by the sea, my favourite place; I was lucky enough to be brought up next to the sea :)

Quick fire questions now...

Favourite book

Too hard, anything historical but my guilty pleasure are the Lee Child "Jack Reacher" books!

Hobbies

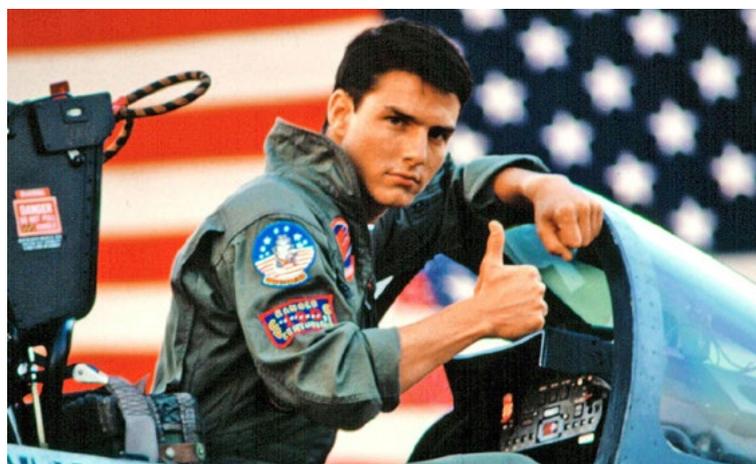
Tennis, Hiking, Body boarding

Any pets?

Two dogs and a cat



My eldest son Ollie and I at the Roman fort of Vindolanda



Favourite singers/bands

Maroon 5, Billy Joel, Genesis, Sting - eclectic mix!!

Favourite film

The Searchers/The Lion in Winter/Anne of the Thousand Days/Top Gun

Favourite TV programmes/series

Line of Duty

Any claims to fame

Attended a Buckingham Palace Garden Party

A tip for surviving lockdown

Rain or shine, get outside...every day!!

Thanks for telling us about yourself Jo - we agree that getting outside everyday is a great idea for surviving lockdown!



Weekly Awards



18th January Awards

Learners of the Week

James Pullen - for superb engagement and enthusiasm with remote learning.

Josie Hanson - for very neat and detailed persuasive advert work.

Lois Coleman - for fantastic effort on her English composition.

Lewis Walters - for fully embracing remote learning; maintaining excellent standards of work across all subject areas.

William South - for producing high standards of work, showing effort, pride and ambition.

James Sercombe - for displaying great ambition and independence, since the start of remote learning, across all subject areas. Very impressive!

Jayden Mills - for working very hard, excellent quality of work and aiming high.

Adrien Moreau - for working hard in Maths, excellent presentation of work and for showing great pride in all that he does. Well done!

Caspar Martin - for showing fantastic independence in his work this week.

Callum Tremear - for good work in History on World War 2.

Thomas Parsons - for being focused and engaged in remote lessons.

Olivia Brackstone - for aiming high and producing fantastic work in her English and Science

Elizabeth Mews - for showing huge amounts of positivity in all areas of her work.

Daniella Hudson - for aiming high and taking great pride in her work.

Gregory Nicolaou - for aiming high and taking great pride in his work.

Immacolata Notaro-Livingstone - for producing a magnificent poster on acid rain.

Hollie Pocock - for an excellent attitude to learning in English.

Learners of the Week

Sophia Powers - for working really hard, the quality of her work in both content and presentation is excellent! Well done for aiming high!

Sophia Odedra - for her impressive quality of work, continuing to aim high and show great pride in the presentation of her work! Well done!

Charlie Barsby - for excellent mindset to learning.

Finty Gallimore - for excellent attitude and effort across all subjects.

Heidi Martin - for producing fantastic work in History and aiming high.

Jack Macey - for showing an excellent work ethic and producing a great explanation of how sound travels in different materials.

Jack Van Looy - for an outstanding explanation of how sound travels in different materials using particle theory.

Citizens of the Week

Riya Narang - for aiming high and taking great pride in his work.

Samy Chaganti - for going the extra mile in sorting out 8T's assembly and persevering when things got tough.

Special Mention

Congratulations to Freya Simpson for her musical achievements in piano.

Sportswomen/Sportsmen of the Week

Takara Dupont - for demonstrating excellent effort and independence with online games skills this week.

Poppy House - for demonstrating excellent ambition with the online fitness challenges this week (doing an amazing plank).

JJ Wells - for demonstrating excellent effort and ambition with online sport tasks this week.

Heryck Gallimore - for being creative with this week's online fun challenge for sport, showing persistence in his efforts, as well as showing kindness by helping other pupils understand the task.

Tegan Lake - for demonstrating excellent commitment to online sports sessions this week and submitting lots of evidence to sports teachers.

Dancers of the Week

Dulcie Catton - for showing excellent engagement and initiative, sending a wonderful video for our Performing Arts Café.

Dylan Simmons - for making a wonderful dance video for our Performing Arts Café, showing skill and enthusiasm.

Actress of the Week

Lilly Clews - for showing excellence and pride in her Drama activities, engaging positively with the remote learning and extra-curricular routine.

Musicians of the Week

Carlton Chu - for making a good quality music performance recording for our virtual Performing Arts Café, showing confidence.

Tomisin Awofisayo - for making a good quality music performance recording for our virtual Performing Arts Café, showing confidence.





Weekly Awards



25th January Awards

Learners of the Week

Eva Di Capua – for an excellent Science poster.

Monique Du Toit – for a wonderful drawing in Art.

Ivy Wreford - for wonderful artwork and scientific drawing.

Charlie Taylor - for excellent consistent participation in Spanish.

Joseph Lucas - for an amazing French lesson, even with technical problems!

Charlotte Perrone - for taking great pride in her remote learning.

Ben Hatcher - for showing tremendous application in all aspects of Science.

Edward Foreman - for aiming high and producing excellent work.

Mael Dalbavie - for approaching all aspects of his online learning with a positive and ambitious mind-set.

Oliver Hallett - for showing great independence and determination, to produce an effective passage of descriptive writing in English.

Emily Rank - for showing great independence and resilience with her English work.

Camille Fournier - for a fantastic piece of descriptive writing, showing perseverance and ambition.

David Chilinda - for aiming high and writing an excellent diary using exciting word choices. Well done!

Henry Woodley – for handing all of his Humanities and English work in on time and to a very high standard.

Barnaby Bedford - for handing all of his Humanities and English work in on time and to a very high standard.

Siddu Chaganti - for aiming high by producing some excellent work on food chains.

Liberty Moon – for a fantastic presentation on the Statue of Liberty!

Adam Tremear - for being determined and persistent within maths.

Learners of the Week

Isabelle Read - for being positive and ambitious within your work.

Quinn Stott - for aiming high by producing some excellent work on food chains.

Ted Maloney - for aiming high and showing pride and persistence during remote learning.

Noah Jacobi - for aiming high and showing pride and persistence during remote learning.

Ellie Lawrence - for aiming high and showing pride and persistence during remote learning.

Violet Legg - for being positive in her approach to home learning and putting in huge amounts of effort in to her English work.

Daisy Gregory - for being positive towards her work and showing excellent independence in her learning.

Keira Hughes – for superb arguments on utilitarianism in PRE.

Frankie Hanson – for superb arguments on utilitarianism in PRE.

Destiny Zhemu – for superb arguments on utilitarianism in PRE.

Lucas Baker - for an excellent fact file on the Statue of Liberty.

Special Mention

To all of the pupils who have performed in our Performing Arts Cafés this term. It is terrific that we are continuing with these.

To the whole of Year 7 for their engagement with their work on The Rime of the Ancient Mariner in English. They have shown great pride and independence with their descriptive writing task. Well done! A Learner of the Week Certificate will be sent to all Year 7 pupils!

Citizen of the Week

Zak Prewett - for his fantastic help towards another pupil with online learning in Science.

Sportswomen/Sportsmen of the Week

Isaac Tyler - for showing independence when creating his videos for games and PE.

Emily Miller, Evie Linden and Zoe Trembath- for all asking Olympian, Kate Allenby, some insightful and inquisitive questions during the whole school sports scholars meeting.

Dancers of the Week

Tilly Coomber - for showing excellent engagement and enthusiasm in our Dance club.

Freya Simpson - for showing excellent engagement and enthusiasm in our Dance club.

Actress of the Week

Elena Onesti - for showing excellent engagement in remote Speech and Drama lessons.

Musicians of the Week

Oscar Coleman - for making an excellent recording for our Performing Arts Café video.

Grace Gendall - for making and editing her own music video for our Performing Arts Café, showing excellent musical and technological skills.

Saffron Masters - for performing with confidence in our Performing Arts Café videos, making excellent introductions and showing great musical skills.

Tongfei Deng - for setting herself challenges in Music and achieving really highly.

