

Prep School Spring Term Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you all had a lovely half term away from screens as much as you were able to do so. By now, I also hope that all of the children who are currently remote learning will have received a card and a poem from me. I wanted to make sure that they know how much we miss being in school with them and that we can't wait to return to 'in person' lessons as soon as we are able to do so.

Mrs Fenor-Lloyd has also finished out Radnor House Prep Community Tree where all of the children's hands are displayed in their Houses on the wall outside my office. We hope it will be a clear reminder that whether we are at home or in school, we are all part of a very special community. The school site has been quiet with just the critical worker children, the Pre School children and the staff who are looking after them currently in the Prep with myself, the office staff and more often than not Mr Halliwell too. However, that is not to say that life is quiet – far from it! It is just that the activity has switched to being predominantly online. I have included some more detailed information below to give you more of an idea of what we have all been up to in lockdown.



Year 5 China Day



Year 5 had a fantastic China Day on Friday 12th February as part of their topic on China and to celebrate the Chinese New Year. Activities included cooking some delicious stir fry led by Mrs. Fenor-Lloyd who taught them how to cut, chop and fry! Year 5 also created some beautiful origami fans before being taught a traditional Chinese fan dance by Miss. Parker which resulted in excellent, composed performances! Creativity was key to Year 5's China Day as they carved beautiful animals into soap - with Mr. Kemp - to replicate the jade carvings in the Shang Dynasty and intricate, colourful Willow Pattern plates were also designed and painted. Then to finish off the day, Year 5 heard brilliant Chinese themed stories from Mrs. Lambert - it was a truly, wonderful creative China Day! This has built on many other activities about China that the children have completed this half term. These have included learning all about the Terracotta Army and building their own replicas out of salt dough. Many thanks to all of the children's families who helped to support us to deliver these activities online by providing the necessary resources. What a fantastic partnership!



The children in Pre School also celebrated Chinese New Year Too



Year 1 have been learning about the artist



Frank Bowling

Another big “Thank you!” must go to the parents of the children in Year 1. Year 1 have been learning about the artist Frank Bowling. The children have enjoyed being adventurous in their use of colour, shape and pattern. They used different ‘action’ words, inspired by Frank Bowling to decorate their work. For example ‘pouring’, ‘spilling’, ‘smearing’. I have no doubt that some of these terms inspired absolute horror in some of our parents when they heard them initially, but the work that the children has produced is super. The children learnt that Frank Bowling to add self portraits and drawings of family members to his paintings. Also he is known for hiding objects in his art work such as a plastic spoon – can you spot one?



The children in Reception have also been getting active with ingredients!

The learned all about rainforest animals and then became rainforest vets and used their understanding of capacity to develop medicines to help some of the animals that they had learned about!



Pre Prep and Prep Children rose to the challenge!



I know that many of the Pre Prep and Prep Children also rose to the challenge from Mlle Ouahyb to celebrate French Pancake day or “La Chandeleur” on 2nd February by making their own crêpes.

Year 2 have also been doing some practical experimentation about forces as part of their recent topic in Science.



Again, apologies for any chaos that the children have caused at home, but I am confident that you will have seen how practical tasks are a great way to help them to learn and have some time away from a screen.



The Big Garden Birdwatch

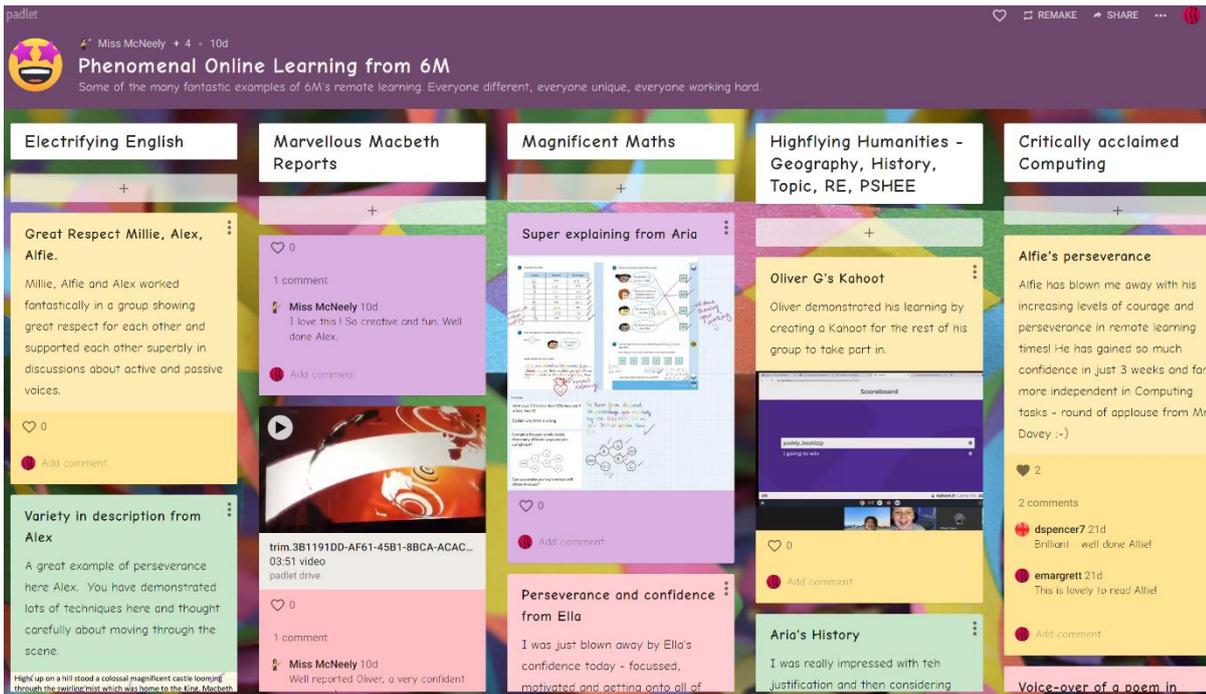
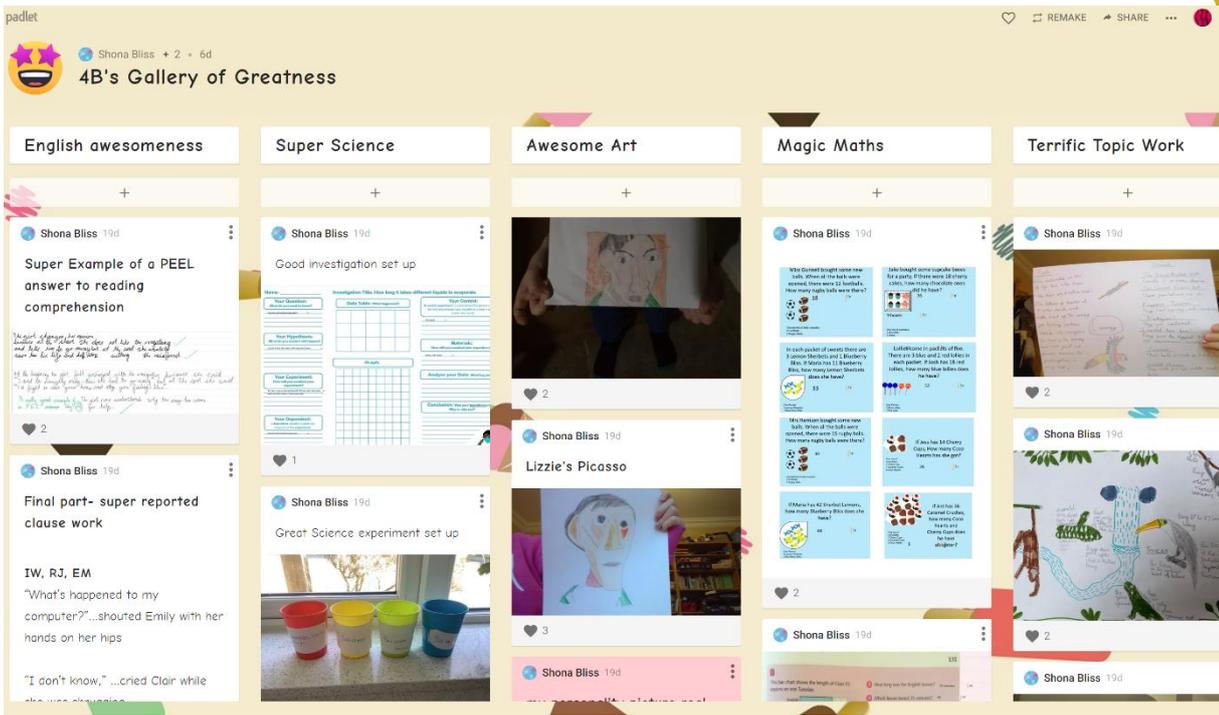
We have not just been engaging in activities inside, however. In assembly a couple of weeks ago, Mr Kemp encouraged the children to take part in the Big Garden Birdwatch for the RSPB and I know that many of them have done do. Mr Beegan taught the children to



identify some of the common birds that they might come across and then took the Pre School children to do some birdwatching as part of one of their forest school lessons to get them into the mood! The really enjoyed using their binoculars.

The “Wall of Wonder”

Whilst the children have been working online, we have had to get creative about the ways in which we celebrate their work. I have been putting up work on the “Wall of Wonder” in my office, and the teachers have come up with lots of innovative ways of celebrating super work. Inspired by Miss McNeely, a number of the classes now have a Padlet where their teachers are posting work which is particularly notable in the hope that it will inspire others. There is an example of the Year 4 and the 6M Padlets on the next page.



I have been so impressed by just how confident the children have become when using a wide range of apps and packages. For example, Willow and Emily in Year 4 chose to deliver their recent presentation on the Rainforest using Adobe Spark complete with recorded commentary on each slide. Phenomenal!

Many opportunities to perform



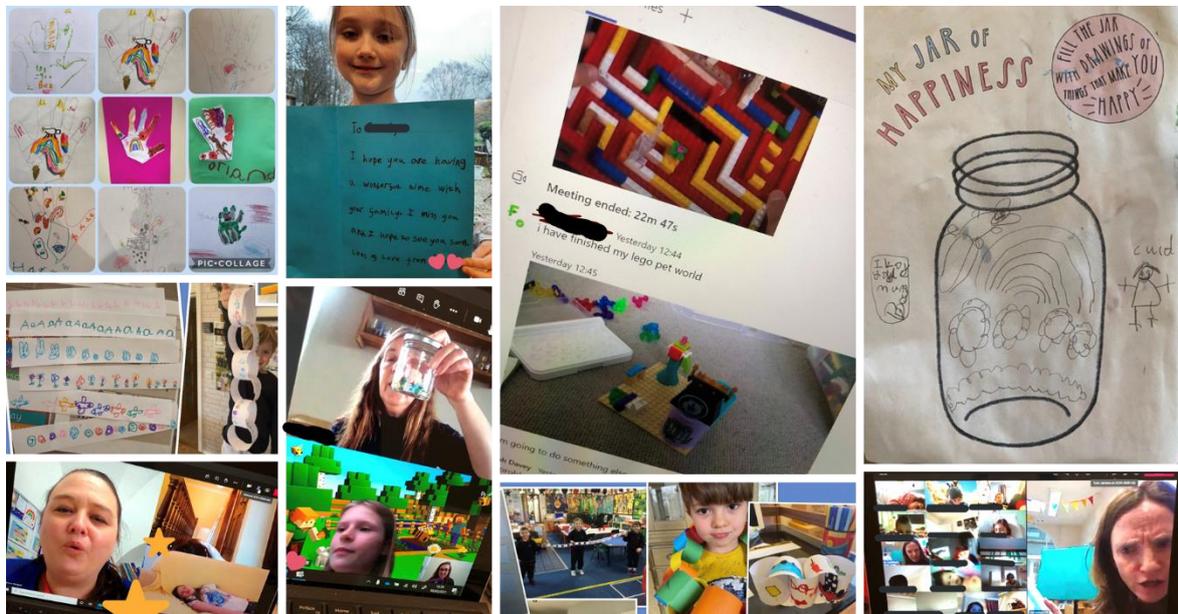
Another way in which the teachers have encouraged the children to share their unique talents is through providing them with additional opportunities to perform. Many of the children took part in our recent Music and Dance celebration as part of Children’s Mental Health Awareness Week, sharing their collaborations as part of our Mental Health Awareness Week celebrations, and others have begun to offer to play at the start of Celebration Assembly. I was very impressed by the first performance from Neve Beesley (Year 6) who played “Presto: second movement from Allettamenti per camera, op.8 No 12” by Giuseppe Valentini, setting the bar high. Year 5 children have also chosen to share their musical talents at some ‘musical soirees’ that the teachers are holding at the end of the day as another way for the children to connect and show each other their talents.

Children’s Mental Health Awareness Week

On the week of the 1st February, the whole of Radnor House took part in Children’s Mental Health Awareness Week. Miss Dale led the organisation of activities across the Prep with Ms Green leading the assembly in Pre Prep. Throughout the week, the children engaged in all sorts of activities to help them to understand more about their mental health and to support their wellbeing in a positive way. As well as activities in lessons, many staff offered activities at lunchtime and the children were able to participate in everything from guided meditation, to singing to Lego building. We have talked to the children about how exercise can have a positive impact on their mood and how we need to be aware of how we are thinking and feeling. The week culminated in story time for the children in their different age groups, where they were given some time at the end of the day on Friday 5th February to snuggle up and



listen to a whole range of staff reading from literature that they particularly enjoyed. In fact, although it was officially Children’s Mental Health Awareness Week, I was very keen for the staff to have the opportunity to engage in some activities to support their mental health too, and Miss Dale got on the case, roping in Mrs Algar to run a HIIT class and her aunt to run a class on self massage for wellbeing. The staff activities continue after half term when Mrs Davey’s mum will be doing a cookery masterclass and we will have a talk by Joe Patch a motivational speaker on mindfulness. There is surely no more important time for us all to be aware of our mental health.



Year 3 First Aid Training



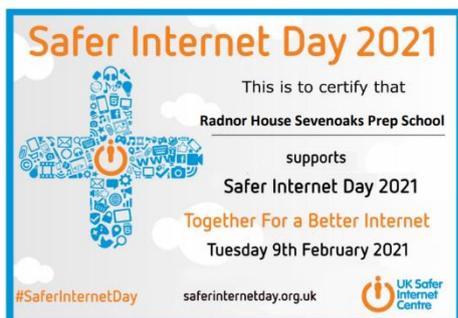
They may have been at home, but the Year 3 children also managed to engage in remote first aid training for 7-8 year olds following the Red Cross programme “First Aid Skills for Children”. They had an hour and half of teaching and learning including role play scenarios before involving their families for the final part for the assessment where their families were the patients and the children had to act as first aiders and put in place what they had learnt

to deal with the below medical emergencies. Miss Dale and Mrs Hill were very impressed by how the children handled themselves throughout the session and by what they were able to demonstrate that they had learned.

Safer Internet Day 2021



On Tuesday 9th February, we took part in a number of exciting activities for Safer Internet Day, which focused on this year's theme 'An Internet We Trust.'



Each class completed their own learning based around the theme; they learnt many new facts and skills to help empower them to stay safe and smart online. Children were asked to think about the motivation behind different types of online content and hopefully are aware of steps we can take to use and trust the Internet.

The Prep children took part in the BBC Live lesson. There were top tips from internet celebrities on how they stay safe. They played a game called 'Accept, Check and Reject', where they were presented with different scenarios that they might encounter online and were asked to make a decision on whether they would accept the request, check it with an adult or reject the request immediately.



Our children were then reminded how to navigate the internet respectfully and sensitively, knowing how to recognise appropriate and inappropriate online behaviour and how to raise any concerns. Some children joined in with the active Super

Movers video on recognising right and wrong.

Each child in Prep was given the opportunity to be part of an official Guinness World Record Attempt for the most pledges received for an internet safety campaign in 24 hours. Well done to everyone who made a pledge to help create an internet we trust and for being part of Safer Internet Day. The attempt is now being verified with Guinness World Records and we'll keep you updated!





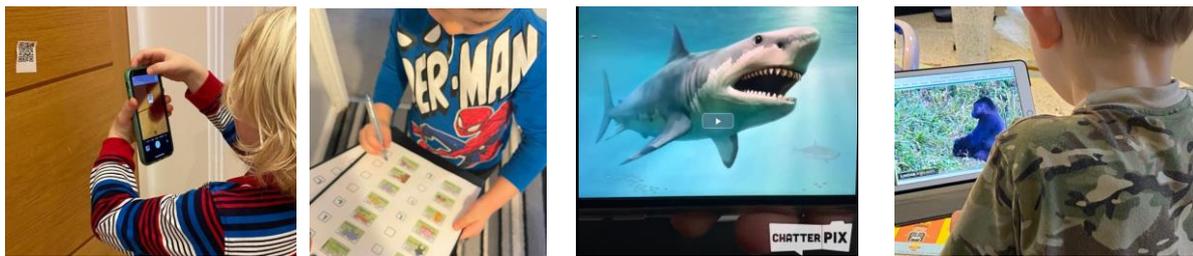
In the afternoon, Mrs Davey held a special Safer Internet Day assembly to remind children to be Internet Detectives – we must all be inquiring and thoughtful about the content we see on the internet, being aware that not all of the information online is credible. The children had fun guessing whether the News stories she shared were real or fake.



Computing

Mrs Davey has been so proud of everyone for completing their Computing tasks whilst at home. She has loved seeing the evidence of these activities on Tapestry, in live lessons or through the projects the children have completed and shared with her. They have shown nothing but a real commitment to succeed and demonstrate their true Radnor values!

Reception have had fun linked with their “Rumble in the Jungle” theme: they’ve had houses full of Augmented reality animals; been on a QR code animal hunt; made creatures in ChatterPix recalling incredible facts; spied on animals via webcams; practised their mouse skills using activities in Busy Things and talked about staying safe online.



Year 1 have learnt about and created their own Pixel Art, explored the Skeleton in AR and labelled their own photograph digitally. They have linked their learning of Florence Nightingale to create talking pictures filled with facts; used the Beebot online to enter algorithms and plan a route through a town; made their own Art work that comes to life in Augmented Reality and discussed online safety.



RH7 Reads: Spotlight on 100 Book Challenge



It has been wonderful to see how many pupils have risen to the challenge of reading 100 Books. Pupils have been awarded certificates for reaching milestones along the way, and we have seen the first pupils enter the Hall of Fame.

So far, we have awarded 64 Bronze; 38 Silver; 18 Gold and 9 Hall of Fame awards. Amazing!

AWARD	RECEPTION YEAR 1 YEAR 2	YEAR 3 YEAR 4	YEAR 5 YEAR 6
BRONZE 	Read 20 books	Read 10 books	Read 5 books
SILVER 	Read 30 books	Read 20 books	Read 10 books
GOLD 	Read 50 books	Read 40 books	Read 20 books
HALL OF FAME 	Read 60+ books	Read 50+ books	Read 25+ books



The 100 Book Challenge is designed to encourage a wide range of reading, and lasts for 2-3 years, depending on the age group. Each Challenge includes classic stories, some well-loved books and some newer titles. Here are a few of our award winners, telling us about what books they have enjoyed and why they have taken part in the challenge:

Which is your favourite book on the 100 Book Challenge? Why did you enjoy this one so much?

Avi Kumar: "Are We There Yet" by Dan Santat. The story is about a boy who time travels to the past and the future. I would recommend it to children who like fiction books. I give it 9/10. I like this book because it's funny.

Max Baker: I have two favourite books: "The Hobbit" by JRR Tolkien and "Holes" by Louis Sachar.

"The Hobbit" has lots of adventures and wonderful characters. I enjoyed "Holes" because it is about a group of boys and I found out about their personalities, which was very interesting.

Lizzie Beckerson: It would be either "Operation Gadget Man" by Malorie Blackman because I never wanted to put it down as it was so suspenseful, or "The Adventures of Captain Underpants" because it was hysterical!

James Strother: I don't really have a favourite one, I liked quite a few on the list. The 13-Storey Treehouse is brilliant and really funny. And the great thing is, that if you like it, there are loads more books. I have read all 10 of them! And there's a new one coming out later this year too.

Has there been a book which surprised you? Perhaps it wasn't what you expected from the front cover or something happened which took you by surprise.

Max Baker: Yes, "The Hobbit". Because Bilbo Baggins, the Hobbit, betrayed Thorin and took the Arkenstone and gave it to their enemies the Elves which surprised me!



Lizzie Beckerson: Maybe "Secrets According to Humphrey" by B. Birney, as Humphrey is the most extraordinary hamster in the world. I would not expect a hamster to be able to write about his dreams in notebooks or swing on a cord on a blind. When he has funny dreams they change the way he sees the world – like when he dreamed about aliens and thought he saw them when he was awake!

Which book has made you laugh the most?

Max Baker: The books for Year 5 are a bit more serious so this is tricky. I would say in general that Roald Dahl's books, especially "The Twits", make me laugh.

James Strother: "The Brilliant World of Tom Gates". Again, there are loads of Tom Gates books and they are all really funny, so you can read them all like I have if you like the first one.

Lizzie Beckerson: "Alex Sparrow And The Really Big Stink" by Jennifer Killick.

Alex Strother "I Can Only Draw Worms" was really funny.

Which book will you read next?

Max Baker: "Lord of the Rings" by JRR Tolkien even though it's not on the 100 books challenge but I think it should be since "The Hobbit" is on there. JRR Tolkien is my favourite author.

Lizzie Beckerson: "The Moonshine Dragon" by Cornelia Funke.

A final word...

Max says: "When I first heard about the 100 books challenge I was upset because I thought I absolutely had to read 100 books! I don't like reading so much as listening to audiobooks. If you don't like reading just try an audiobook." **Maddy Edgar** has also been listening to stories on Youtube, so do make sure that you count any books you listen to, towards your 100 Book Challenge.

Remember to take a photo of your lists/planners with the books you have read ticked off, and email to klambert@radnor-sevenoaks.org to receive your awards! **Happy Reading!**

Snow Days!



Whilst we had two days in the final week of term when we were unable to get into school due to snow, as soon as we were back in, the crucial worker children and our Pre School children really made the most of our fabulous surroundings and enjoyed every second!



In Pre School we have been inspired by our experiences outside and have made snowmen using different shapes. Identifying them by their correct names. The children have been using the buttons of the snowman to help with number recognition and counting.

lockdown!

As you can see, even though I have included a brief snapshot of some of the activities which we have engaged with in the past half term, there is a great deal happening at Radnor House Prep even during

We have much to look forward to in the next half term, not least World Book Day which Mr Veness and Mrs Lambert have been planning for quite some time and Fair Trade Fortnight which I know Mr Kemp has got some super ideas for too.

Look after each other and stay safe.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Emma'.

Dr Emma Margrett
Head of the Prep School