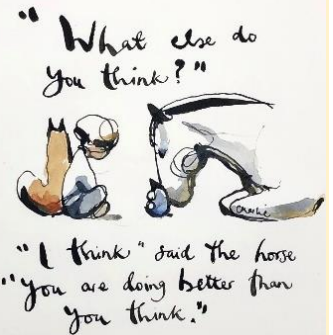


From Mr Chappell

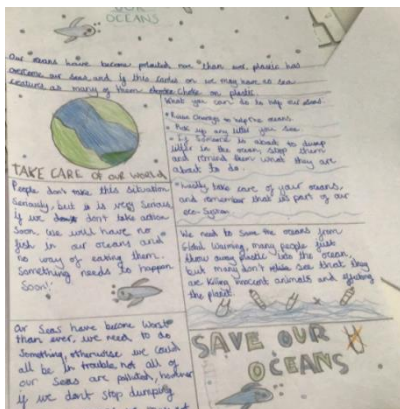
"I think" said the horse, "you are doing better than you think."

This quote from Charlie Mackesy's *'The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse'*, the book that we have featured quite a bit over the last year or so, is something that encapsulates where we all are at the moment. The last few weeks has been a whirlwind for everybody, whether you are a member of staff getting to grips with recording, a child adjusting to new routines and home learning or a parent/carer juggling everything that goes on at home, alongside trying to keep children focussed on home learning. Over the last few weeks, I have thanked all the staff for their amazing efforts, but today we wanted to say a HUGE thank you to you all! As a parent myself, on numerous times over the last few months I have questioned how we are doing as family. Are we doing enough for our children? Are they doing the right things in their home learning? Should they be outside more? Are they having too much screen time? All these questions and many more, whilst juggling the normal daily activities of the home environment and work. I am sure that there are times when you may feel the same, but the key thing is "we are all doing better than we probably think". Remember to keep the lines of communication open with us as a school and know that you are not alone. If you have any questions or need any help, or even if you need signposting to an external agency for additional advice and support, we will respond. Please let us know if you need any help with anything.

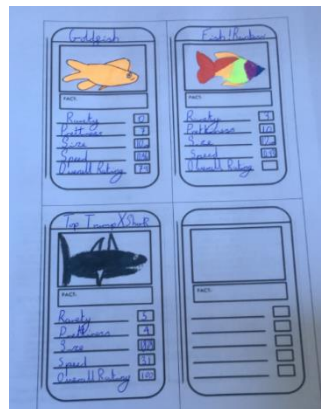


'Under the Sea' WOW day

We hope you enjoyed our first ever whole school WOW day. The day seemed to be a real success, from the morning assemblies and the very enjoyable and informative live Aquarium tours. There were some great costumes around school and at home - and some great examples of work.



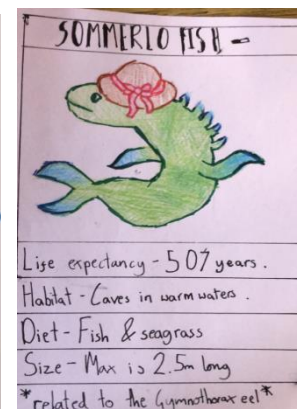
Save Our Oceans, Year 6



Top Trumps, Year 5



Sea Creature Discovery, Year 3 and 6

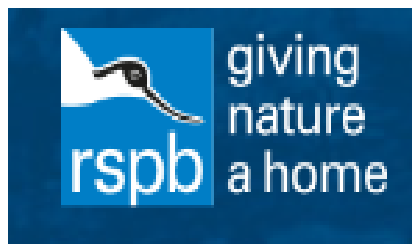


Fantastic work everyone!

Following our great WOW day today, we look forward to another exciting event highlighted below by Mrs Kitson. Try to get out into the garden and see how many different birds you can spot!

RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch – 29th to 31st January

Message from Mrs Kitson: We'd love the whole school community to get involved in this free national event next weekend. All you need to do is spend a quiet hour counting the different types of birds which land in your garden. All the instructions and resources, including bird ID sheets and instructions for making bird feeders are online here <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/>



Children in school will be taking part in the Big Schools' Birdwatch too, during the day on Friday 29th.

Why not take some time to have a go at this great event? If you manage to take any photographs of the birds that you see, send them in to school. Or why not try to sketch or draw the different birds that you will see?

Refugees

Last term the children in Years 5 and 6 studied 'Peace and Conflict' and learned about the impact of conflict on evacuees during World War 2, but also about refugees in the present day who have had to flee conflict. They were inspired to be 'Brave Change makers' and make a difference for some refugees who live nearby. They had a virtual visit from a lady from the charity 'Refugee Women of Bristol' who explained some of the challenges experienced by refugees arriving here and how they help. They have now set up a fund raising page to support the work of this charity.

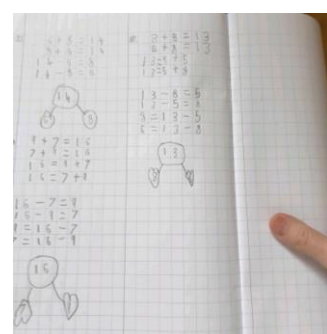
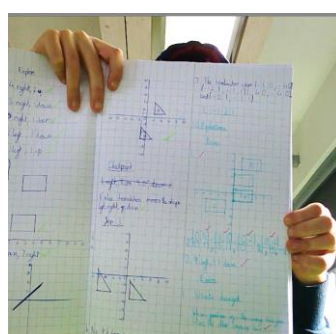
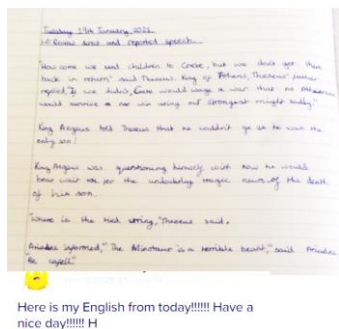
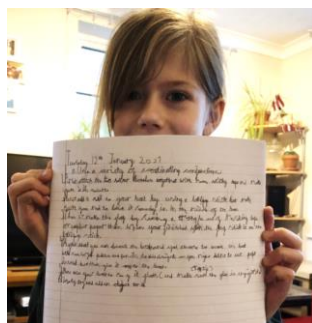


<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/year-5-and-6-charity-challenges-for-refugees>

Year 6 have been raising awareness through their poignant writing and we will be sharing some of their work in future newsletters. Year 5 have set themselves individual challenges to raise funds for the charity.

Home learning

We want to thank everyone for their efforts in uploading the activities that children are completing at home. We've been very impressed by the engagement levels and, as the lockdown heads into the final few weeks of the Spring term, it is important to keep the children engaging in their work. A reminder that if there are any concerns or difficulties with the work and the expectations, please speak to your child's class teacher as soon as possible. We are expecting all children to be engaging in the work they have been set and they should be uploading examples. For those children who spend part of the week in school, please make sure that work is completed and uploaded on the days when they are not in school.



Devices: One of the main reasons we decided to use pre-recorded lessons on YouTube was for the ease of access and being able to watch the video via tablets, computers, SMART TV or phones, when more than one device is possibly needed. If there is anybody who is having difficulty accessing the recording, due to lack of devices, please let us know as soon as possible and we will try to help as much as we can. It is also worth noting that major communications companies such as EE, BT or Vodaphone are looking to increase the amount of mobile data available for families, and this is something that we can help you with. Please let us know if you need any more support. **We have finally received our small allocation of devices and will be looking to allocate these to families shortly; please let us know if you would like to be considered for one.**

Year 1 and 2 Challenge

Message from Mrs Woolford: The Year 1 and 2 children are creating a display depicting an 'Under Water Scene'. The children currently in school thought it would be great if their class friends at home could also draw and then paint, collage, colour or decorate a sea creature (for example a fish, shark or octopus) to add to the scene. The picture should be no bigger than A4 size and it can be dropped off at school when collecting reading books next Friday morning. Every child's work will be used and we look forward to sharing the result with you. Get creative, children!

Safeguarding

During the closure, I will continue with my reminder about safeguarding: It is imperative that if you have any concerns you contact the school or South Gloucestershire's Access and Response Team. Our greatest priority as a school is to always ensure the safety, well-being and happiness of all our children. In these unprecedented times, and during the school closure, the safeguarding of all our children remains our number one priority.

We will continue to support our families through different means: whether by frequent phone calls, class Zoom meetings, emails and, when necessary, face to face house visits (with social distancing protocols). Please note that we are also continuing to work with external agencies during this period of closure. With this in mind please remember that if you have any safeguarding concerns regarding our children, please contact us as a matter of urgency. I am the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Mr Spens is Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL). Throughout the closure we are contactable at all times via the school email: sthelensprimary@sgmail.org.uk. South Gloucestershire Council's Safeguarding Access and Response Team (ART) is also available to report concerns about a child: 01454 866000 Monday to Thursday 9.00am – 5.00pm (4.30pm on Friday) and 01454 615165 out of hours and at weekends.



School Value

Remember our school value is 'responsibility' this term.
How will you show responsibility at home?

Congratulations to these children on winning certificates last week.

Cherry Class – George and Scarlett R
Holly Class – Avah-Grace and Joshua
Beech Class – Aryo and Kaia
Oak Class – Lexi and Sebastian

Ash Class – Emily B and Martha
Sycamore Class – Xander and Evie
Elm Class – Isis and Alexander



Working in partnership with St Mary's Primary School, Yate

'Growing together, pursuing life in all its fullness'

