



Headteacher News

Dear Parents and Carers

We are now coming to the end of our fourth week of school closure and sadly we had to close a bubble for the first time. While it is not the start to the year any of us would have hoped for, I am filled with pride to see how everyone has adapted to the remote learning in such a short time. The children have responded positively and with enthusiasm to the changes and the staff have reacted swiftly to adapt their plans and adjust to the new way of teaching. When I look through the different classes' remote learning and the work that has been handed in, one word comes to mind - amazing! I would like to say an enormous thank you to you as parents and carers for all your support and your kind comments we have received. They are greatly appreciated by all staff. I know you will join me in thanking our staff in showing such commitment and resilience during this time and over the coming weeks.

A huge thank you to you as parents and carers too – you are doing a great job! The tremendous effort that you are making in order for your children to access the daily Teams sessions is appreciated. We have deliberately not planned too many timed / live slots to help you with this so you can decide when is best for your child to learn each day. We know that this is difficult for many of you, juggling home life, having limited devices for the family to use, school work and generally surviving the pandemic but well done. We have been astounded by your creativity and how you have been supporting your children with both the work that has been set by the teachers and the projects that you have been helping your children with at home. After my first remote collective worship last week I loved seeing Peter from Devas using feely boxes too. It made me think that some of the children could do a better job than me on Zoom!

The beauty of our learning now (compared to March 2020) is that all learning in home or at school is the same, using our chosen learning platform, Microsoft Teams. We wrote to parents earlier this week expressing our need to keep school places for critical worker children (when parents are not working from home) and vulnerable children to hopefully keep the spread of the virus low as we can. Please note that this is a national closure, so while it is a challenging situation, we are not alone. This is the same across the UK and the world. We know that working from home and supporting remote learning is hard. We are doing everything we can to ensure that the children can complete their remote learning independently and without disrupting you.

As I've mentioned previously there will be days or times when your child cannot or does not want to engage with remote learning. Please do not let this stress you. They will be learning all sorts of life skills just by playing outside, being creative, using their imagination or reading a book. My thoughts are also with anyone who is struggling at the moment. Whatever you are going through, whether it is illness, bereavement, mental health issues or feeling the weight of the additional demands that we face at the moment, please look after yourself first. We know our pupils are **safe, loved and cared** for and that is the most important thing at the moment. You are loving your children, and supporting them through a difficult time.

This week we have started live on Zoom, 'Star of the Week'. As well as awarding the star, it has given me the first opportunity to see all the children and their smiling faces. It really is quite magical to see the children interacting with each other and hearing the praise from their teachers. We have seen many writing and maths examples as well as art work, science and music. The children are all excited to see each other during these sessions and we have witnessed some stunning work where teachers have been sharing examples on their screens. As I have said to all of them it is important that each day they get outside for fresh air and exercise. The amount of screen time is not 'normal' and we must ensure that it is limited for their own health, physical development as well as social and emotional needs. Next Friday will be a non-screen day; the class teachers will tell you more.

If there is anything that the school may be able to help with, please get in touch and we will do our best for you and your family.

The children really are most resilient and incredible; we are so lucky to get the chance to play a small part in their lives. They are showing us every day how they can adapt to difficult situations and amaze us with the work that they produce. I think they all deserve a huge pat on the back and I hope they all enjoy a well-deserved break this weekend before blow us all away again next week.

Have a lovely weekend
Mrs Makey

Compassion, Hope, Reverence, Wisdom

Life in all its fullness

Star of the Week



It's up and sparkling again!

Every week, each class teacher nominates a pupil as 'star of the week' for an outstanding achievement or learning that has taken place. In Bannerman we have two as it's a larger class.

A huge well done to the children who got awarded their star this week on Zoom! Congratulations for all their hard work.

Devas	Toby
Bannerman	Gracie Benjamin
Porteous	Arabella
Borton	Ellis

Communications with School

This is a good time to remind everyone that the school has the following request for communications. During the school day we can answer phone calls. Emails should be sent to the admin email address – office@hunton.kent.sch.uk or Nikki.tompkins@hunton.kent.sch.uk. This is important as the email addresses are monitored between 8.30am and 4pm during the school day. Emails sent after this time or at weekends will not be answered until the next working day.

Quadrathlon Competition

England Athletics have created a new weekly virtual track and field Quadrathlon competition for anyone aged 9 and over. It's perfect for setting up at home. It uses 4 well known sports hall activities. It will be a weekly challenge competition, taking place on each weekend running until the 28 February. Each weekend is like a new competition – so you can take part each week, every other week, or just once. The beauty of this competition is you can decide when to do it – and it's a great way to measure your own progress whilst also competing against others. [Weekly Quadrathlon @home - Athletics & Running \(englandathletics.org\)](https://www.englandathletics.org)

Arty crafts inspired by Cathedral artefacts

[Create and Discover '21](https://www.createanddiscover.org) is a brand-new venture now available from Rochester Cathedral. You are invited on a journey of discovery around Rochester Cathedral during 2021, through 21 creative challenges. New challenges will be released fortnightly and are inspired by something found in the Cathedral.

Helpful Videos

Presented by HeadStart Kent and Draw Your Own Solution, the link below takes you to short videos that are a must watch for any parent in Kent to learn about how to support their child to be resilient and how to be a resilient parent themselves. <https://kentresiliencehub.org.uk/resources/resilience-webinar-for-parents/>

Dates

Term 3

29-31 Jan	Great British Birdwatch
1-5 Feb	Children's Mental Health Week – Place2be
5 th Feb	Non-screen day (details to follow from teachers)
9 Feb	Safer Internet Day
12 Feb	Last day of term

Term 4

22 Feb	Staff development day
23 Feb	Term 4 begins
1 April	Term 4 ends

Remote Learning Offer

We have published an overview of our remote education provision on our website. This will provide you with a clear outline of what you can expect from the school during a school closure or if your child is required to self-isolate. <https://www.hunton.kent.sch.uk/school-information/policies/>

Safer Internet Day

On a similar note, Safer Internet day is on Tuesday 9th February; we will be putting some advice onto our website about this. Please remain vigilant about the on-line content that your children are accessing, especially as they are on devices for longer periods of time than usual. Talk to them about keeping safe on there, not to give out any personal or family information and to let you know if they are contacted by someone that they do not know.

Great British Birdwatch

Don't forget the RSPB are running their annual garden birdwatch 29/31 January 2021. It is a lovely activity for families to take part in.

[Big Garden Birdwatch | Join the fun - The RSPB](https://www.rspb.org.uk/garden-birdwatch/)

Competition Time



MY MUM

Get drawing...

This year more than any other your mum deserves to know how much you love her

It's easy to upload your drawing of your mum, just follow these easy steps

- 1 Draw your picture
- 2 Take a photo of it and save it on your phone or device
- 3 Visit www.kmmymum.co.uk and click on the picture
- 4 Select the part of the drawing that you want to upload and click on the 'upload' button
- 5 Fill in details of the mum's name, the child's name, your postcode and capture the photo
- 6 Create a free account and check out

Upload your drawing of your mum at www.kmmymum.co.uk **KM**