



Headteacher News

I hope you all had a chance to enjoy the snow with your families – I know for many that this was a very welcome distraction from the current news and daily restrictions we are all living with. It remains to be seen whether snow days will become a thing of the past now that we have so many remote learning skills!

How wonderful it is for classes to get together on their weekly Zoom meets to share their learning and their news. We have seen pets being well looked after, a real igloo with lighting, incredible art work and posters remembering Captain Sir Tom Moore and even a Blue Peter badge. I hope you can bring this in to show us, Savannah.

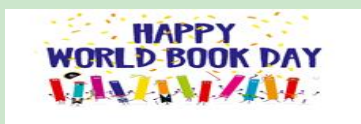
I would particularly like to say thank you at the end of my first term and on behalf of the staff, for your positive messages of thanks and gratitude. What a term it has been! Such positive feedback genuinely means a lot to us. The staff at Hunton have been working tirelessly to ensure that our remote learning offer is the very best it can be for our children whilst also coming in to school to teach our critical worker and vulnerable children. I am also aware that many are looking after their own families and are conscious that visiting their vulnerable relatives could put them at risk. Moreover, a huge admiration to those of you at home who are connecting your children with remote learning whilst trying to manage your own daily challenges. We are aware of the enormous pressure that this lockdown has brought to many of you. No one should underestimate the effects of juggling work demands, home schooling and all the further complications of living in a pandemic. We would like to thank parents and carers for the fantastic job that you are doing in supporting and teaching your children. If needed do click on the link <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/toptips-to-improve-your-mental-wellbeing>

And finally despite hearing alarming news about new variants and the numbers of people still in hospital there is the encouraging headline about the roll out of the vaccine. Alongside that, there are some wonderful and inspiring stories about individuals and communities stepping up to help others. We have all been saddened to hear of the death of Captain Sir Tom Moore – what an amazing legacy he has left! It is incredibly moving to see how the children have reacted with beautiful art work, posters and poems. We may not all be able to raise millions of pounds, volunteer to help with the vaccination programme or provide hot meals to hospital staff – but we all have the ability to act with cooperation and a shared responsibility. Whether this be through wearing a face covering to protect those around us or by limiting the number of trips we make to the supermarket, if we all act together we can stop the spread and overcome this so that we can get back to normal.

Have a lovely week's break everyone and take care,
Mrs Makey

"We will get through it in the end but it might take time, but at the end of the day we shall all be OK again... the sun will shine on you again and the clouds will go away."
Captain Sir Tom Moore

Compassion, Hope, Reverence, Wisdom



It's that time of year again where we get to celebrate our love of reading. World Book Day is on Thursday 4th March. It will be a bit different this year as many of us are at home. However, we are planning some fun activities for you to take part in. More details to follow soon.

Dates



Term 4

22 Feb	Staff training day
23 Feb	Term 4 begins
1 March	Secondary School Offer Day
4 March	World Book Day
30 March	Parents' Evening
31 March	Parents' Evening
1 April	Term 4 ends

Star of the Week



Every week, each class nominates a pupil as 'star of the week' for an outstanding achievement or learning that has taken place.

A huge well done to the children who got awarded the star in our Zoom meets for the last 2 weeks! Congratulations for all their hard work.

Week beginning: 1/2/21

Devas	Olivia
Bannerman	Sora Sebastian
Porteous	Maddie
Borton	Noah

Week beginning: 8/2/21

Devas	Peter
Bannerman	Mabel Luc
Porteous	Amelie
Borton	Anya

Reading stories aloud

Please see the Books for Topics website link below. This will take you to some documents they have put together of authors reading their stories aloud online for children, which are broken down into age phases. All you need to do is scan the QR code on your phones/iPads and it will take you to a link, usually Youtube, of the author reading their story. There are some amazing titles on there - enjoy!
<https://www.booksfortopics.com/storytime-online>



Thank you!

A special thank you to the PTA who have told us that £1500 has been donated to them. This truly is very generous and kind – thank you.

A neighbour has also donated some new reading books to us which we really appreciate.



A message from KCC Libraries on how they can help families

We know many families need all the help they can get at this challenging time. While Lockdown No. 3 is in progress, we wanted to share that Libraries still have lots of resources available for children and their families that can support home learning. Two information sheets that may be of interest for your pupils' families are attached.

One information sheet lists some of the many library eResources that families can use, including:

- Families can join and manage their cards online too (library cards are free).
- Thousands of free eBooks and eAudiobooks – both stories and information books
- Free online resources to help with home learning
- Free eMagazines and eNewspapers - lots of titles to choose from
- Our Ask a Kent Librarian service can help with accessing digital resources on your own device(s). If you're stuck with this, or any other query, they can help.

The other information sheet covers online safety, highlighting a range of helpful free resources that families can use, including:

- Home activity packs – available for different age groups
- Family activities on topics such as cyber security and sharing images
- Online safety information available as text or in short videos

We also share service updates and virtual events and activities, including story and rhyme times regularly on our social media platforms:

<https://www.facebook.com/KentLibrariesArchives>

<https://www.facebook.com/Maidstone-Libraries-1636236179774954>

<https://twitter.com/kentlibraries>

<https://www.youtube.com/> - Kent Libraries, Registration and Archives

We are planning a welcome to the library video which we will also share soon, along with some more storytime and educational videos.

Please contact us if you'd like any further information regarding the above, or any other library services, including virtual library sessions via Zoom, Skype or MS Teams. We also value feedback on what more we can do.
Fiona Batchelor