

April 2020

NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents & Carers

None of us could've foreseen that this Spring newsletter would all be happening remotely! I'm very aware of the challenges that most of you face with home learning and self-isolating. These are difficult times for us all and

we are all learning new ways of fulfilling our varying roles, both as parents and within our work roles.

We've all been hugely impressed at the level of engagement on Class Dojo. Do congratulate your children but also well done to all parents and carers. Most of us trained for four years to acquire our skills and you've had to learn quite rapidly how to support your child! You're doing a fantastic job. If you're not able to do all the learning, please do stay in touch with us.

I have asked all teachers to let me know of any children not engaging on Dojo. It might be that there are supports we can put in place to make things easier for you. It may be that we need to re-think the learning we're sending for some children and we're very happy to do that. So do please feedback on Dojo to teachers about what kinds of learning are working well and what the challenges for learning at home are. We have tried to ensure that directed learning takes no more than 2-3 hours per day, depending on age.

This should mean that children and families, where able can pursue their own interests and take part in life learning such as cooking, gardening, growing, making etc. If you haven't had time to yet, please do sign up to the Newsfeed on our website as very few parents and carers are using this.

Although Dojo provides the opportunity to communicate with class teachers and is useful in many respects we will move to using the website more frequently to alert parents to information, notices and updates.

The School continues to remain open for critical workers where there is no parent at home and for vulnerable children. There is a different staff team in each week to reduce risk and to ensure teachers can cover childcare themselves.

At this point I have no information about when the School is likely to re-open. We have been told by the Government that more time will be given to Schools to prepare and this is likely to be a phased return with groups of children being prioritised. As soon as we have more information we will update the website Newsfeed.

So, do take care, do contact us if you have any concerns or if we can assist you any further. We do really miss all the children and hope that we will see you as soon as is possible and safe to do so, with very best wishes to you all,

Katy Burns Headteacher



WE MISS YOU

Welcome to Mrs Baumback!

You may have noticed on the school Easter video this photo and wondered who this was?

This is Mrs Baumback who has joined our team at Galmpton. We are delighted to welcome her. Mrs Baumback has been working in our Trust at Totnes St. John's Primary. So she knows the Curriculum really well and many of the things we do at Galmpton will be familiar to her already. Mrs Burns has worked with Mrs Baumback for the last couple of Years and is really pleased she has made the decision to transfer to Galmpton. Mrs Baumback was previously the R.E. lead at TSJ and we know she is going to be able to make a significant contribution at Galmpton.

Mrs Baumback will be working with us for three days of the week and is currently working with Miss Peace in Year 3. At the moment, this involves planning learning alongside Miss Peace. Both teachers had previously met and arranged how they would work together before the school closure. Mrs Baumback will send a video to Year 3 soon telling them all about herself and how she will be working with them. Miss Peace continues to be a Year 3 teacher and will continue to stay in touch with the Year 3 children!



Bird Feeders



Mrs Finch has been working with children in school to make bird feeders. They are lovely and fun and will keep our beautiful wild birds well fed.





Year 1 Easter Story

Year 1 have been creating amazing pieces of distance learning since the school closure.

In the run up to the Easter break, we looked at the Easter story in detail. I have been very impressed with not only their learning but also the inventive ways to continue celebrating this festival at the moment. Here are just a few examples of children who have been creating Easter bonnets, palm leaves, egg rolling, Easter treats, greetings cards and much more! As a class, we hope that everyone is keeping safe and well, and that you were able to find some joy in Easter this year too.

Mrs Paskin

INTEGRITY our new school value

At the beginning of the Spring term we began to re-evaluate our School Values to see if they were still relevant to us and to align our values with the Trust's overarching values. We didn't want to have lots of values that would make knowing them problematic for children and adults alike.

As you know we have completed lots of learning around the value of integrity and most children in the school will be able to define this value. Integrity to us at Galmpton is about doing the right thing when no one is looking. Integrity is also a Trust value and so in consultation with children we decided to change Friendship to Integrity. Year 6 voted overwhelmingly for the change believing it to be a more powerful and impactful value to guide all that we do in school. Of course friendship is still a key part of what we're about at Galmpton and is most obviously seen through our other values of forgiveness, compassion and trust. Without these values maintaining a friendship is impossible! When we return we'll talk more about our new value and find a way of remembering our new one. The children have always been so good at talking about our values. In order to put them into action children have to understand the meaning of the word first. Perhaps children could find a rhyme or acronym to help us learn and include our new value whilst they're at home.



Year 6

SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS

Year 6's learning question: 'What role did scientists of the past play in our understanding of the world today?' have lead children to research some famous scientists, like Alexander Fleming, and children have carried out their own scientific investigations at home involving mould and yeast - well done year 6!

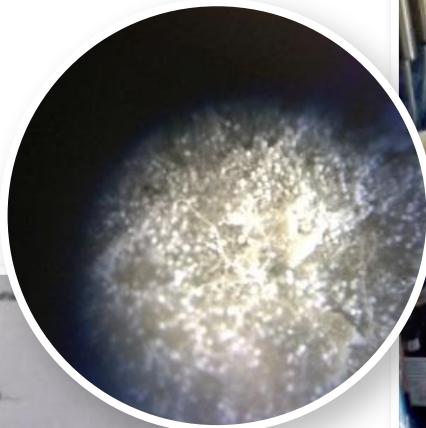


Maisie



Brandon

Tomas: (mouldy bread under a microscope)



Melissa



Victor

Maisie

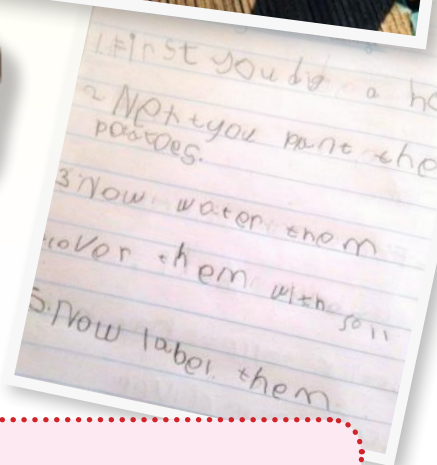
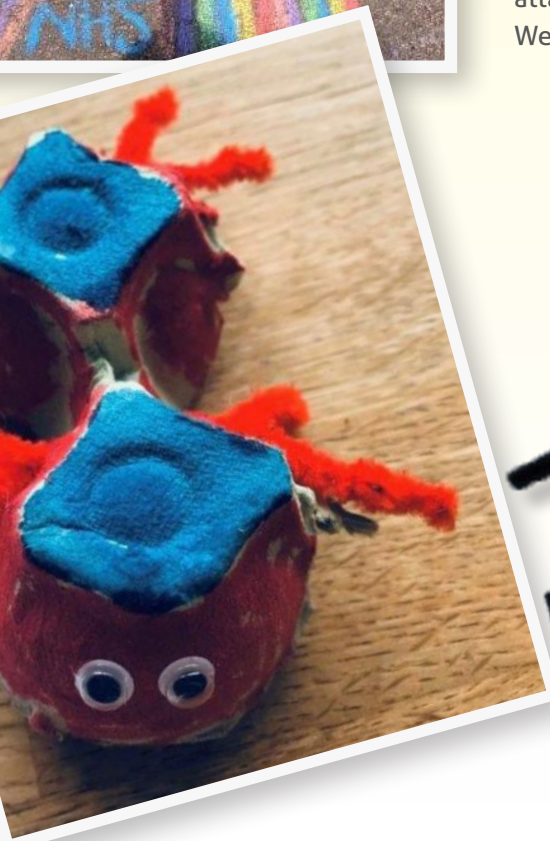




Reception Home Learning

The Reception children have been working hard and completing some super work at home around our learning question 'What signs of spring can we see?'

They have been planting, writing instructions of how to plant, creating models, creating obstacle courses, completing treasure hunts, labelling plants, as well as phonics and maths activities. It has also been lovely to hear so many of them have sent pictures and letters to our local Care Homes. We have attached some pictures of some of their work. Well done YR, brilliant work.



PE Sheds

The children who were in school last week have worked hard to sort and tidy the PE sheds and the lunchtime/playtime shed as they were in a bit of a pickle!

They made a list of what equipment is in each shed in the hope that we can keep them nice and tidy and things can be taken out and put back in more easily. They also put a laminated list on the front of each shed so it is easier for everyone to find what they are looking for.





Peace

Compassion

Integrity

Trust

Forgiveness

Responsibility