



DIGGLE STARS

As everyone is being so amazing at getting on with their learning through these difficult circumstances whether at school or at home, we are going to put Diggle Stars on hold until we are all back in school.

YOU ARE ALL STARS !!!



HEADTEACHER'S COMMENTS



Well, we all made it to half term so well done everyone. It has been a difficult and demanding time especially for those parents who have been carrying out home learning with their children whether full or part time and you have all done a great job.

Teachers tend to treat themselves to their favourite food and/or drink on the last Friday of a half term so make sure you all give yourselves a reward tonight.

As has now become the norm, it is my responsibility to ensure that we continue to track and trace cases of Covid over the half term holiday, so if your child has accessed school this week and then goes on to show symptoms of Covid please be sure to get them tested and to keep me informed using my personal email address head@diggle.oldham.sch.uk as this will be monitored through out the holiday.

Please can I ask that everyone sticks to the rules and regulations of lockdown over the holiday as that will be the best way to stop the spread of the virus which in turn will hopefully mean that we will only have until the 8th March before we can welcome all children back into school fulltime.

We have some ideas for a Covid safe half term in an article further down the newsletter so be sure to check it out

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

As we find ourselves in national lock down again, no activities or events will be taking place this half term.

Fri 12 Feb – Close for Half term

15-19 Feb – Half term

Mon 22 Feb – lessons start again – online or in person



Past newsletters are on the website

We are trying to share useful info to get us through home learning and lockdown as well as celebrating the children's work. Some pages may be repeated for a couple of weeks, but all the newsletters are on the school website for you to refer back to.



Coronavirus. Act like you've got it.

Around 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 don't have any symptoms, but can still pass it on. **And now there is a new strain of the virus which spreads even faster.**





This week in photos. More information, videos and pictures found on our Facebook page.

Class R

In Class R this week, we have been finishing our Traditional Tales Topic by reflecting on what we have learnt. In Literacy, we have made up our own story telling actions, using our knowledge of story language and made up a different ending for one of our favourite traditional tales. We have also read 'The Jolly Postman, Or Other People's Letters', identifying familiar characters and sending them letters. In Maths, we have investigated the number 7 and the days of the week. We have also started to introduce addition by creating a word mat. Finally, the big activity this week was Chinese New Year. The children have made tons of fab decorations from paper chain dragons to Chinese lanterns, and in school we tasted some Chinese food - we love glass noodles and seaweed! We have also learnt the Lunar Story of the Chinese Zodiac. In Phonics, we learnt the sounds; 'oy' and 'ou'. Have a fantastic break! You've earned a good rest Class R!

Class 1

This week in Maths we have been practising one more and one less than a number, starting with numbers up to 20 and working our way up to numbers up to 100. We have also solved word problems involving one more and one less. In English we have been learning about wild rabbits and pet rabbits and using our research to write a fact file about wild rabbits and a leaflet about how to take care of a pet rabbit. In phonics we have completed activities for 'air' and 'ir' and we have revised the sounds 'ou' and 'oy'. In Theme we learnt about Neil Armstrong and his Apollo 11 mission to land on the moon. We wrote a diary entry in the role of Neil Armstrong. In art we looked at the work of Wassily Kandinsky and used our colour mixing skills to paint our own versions of his squares with concentric circles piece.

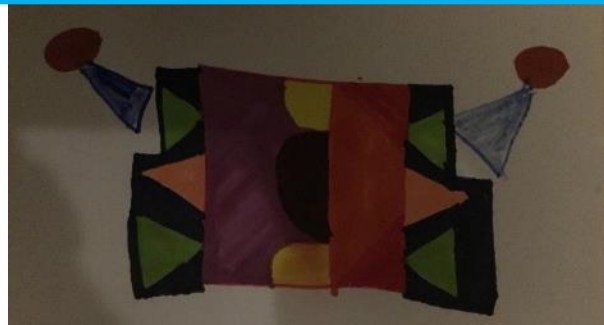
Class 2

Class 2 have continued with our class book 'Wild', this week focusing on learning about what inference - "reading between the lines" - means and using it to make predictions about possible events and about how characters might act or behave. We learned that illustrations can also give lots of information too. In spelling work we have been learning to spell words ending with il, el and al, solving missing word puzzles and also helping Mr Whoops to sort his muddled spellings! We have been working hard with our handwriting and are starting to see good results. This week we have written diary entries using our best handwriting. In maths we have been working on addition and subtraction using two-digit numbers to add and subtract and solving one step maths word problems using an empty number line. In theme we have investigated what houses were like 100 years ago. Family homes during that time often looked similar on the outside to modern homes. However, the rooms inside the house were quite different from the ones we are used to. We explored the different rooms in an interactive house from 100 years ago. We learned some unusual facts especially that chamber pots were a 'must-have' item before houses had inside toilets. If they did not have a chamber pot people would have to visit an outside toilet, often in their back yard or a shared alleyway. In poorer homes, many families might share a single outside toilet. Chamber pots were especially useful at night as it was not nice to go out in the cold, dark night to the outside toilet. Emptying the chamber pots each morning was the worst job in the house!



This week in photos. More information, videos and pictures found on our Facebook page.

Italy



Class 4's artwork inspired by the Russian artist Wassily Kandinsky!

Class 3

This week Class 3 have been on a visit to Italy with their theme, mapping human and physical features, looking at the paintings of Michelangelo and trying to sketch our own after looking at 'Creation of Adam'.

We designed our own pizzas and some even made them. They looked delicious! In English we have been writing diary entries from the perspectives of Sophie and The BFG when the Bloodbottler giant nearly ate her! We also looked at what we have learnt about the 2 main characters so far in the story. In maths, we have tackled division, learning how to use the Bus Stop method.

Class 4

Our theme topic this week has been all about Russia. We have experimented in the abstract style of Wassily Kandinsky and the children really seemed to have enjoyed the freedom that this style allows.

We have plotted the physical and human features on a map of Russia - which is huge - and we have had the most fun doing some Russian dancing. Boney M's Rasputin hopefully has a new generation of admirers. Our maths focus has been on adding and subtracting 1000, while our English work has continued with Roald Dahl's The Witches. We finished our science unit States of Matter by creating a booklet of everything we have learnt. This will hopefully help us to retain some sticky knowledge in the future.

Class 5

This week Class 5 have continued to work hard reading and interpreting data on timetables; some of us have found it particularly tricky to work out what the questions is asking for but have definitely gained in confidence the more we have looked at them. In English we have continued to read the class novel, where we have been introduced to another character; Victor Brynn, he is a 'No-thing'- A Badlander who has turned bad! He must be stopped quickly so the class have produced wanted posters to try and catch this dangerous character. The children have also finished their 'Forces' topic in Science where they have carried out an investigation to find the best type of material to use as a brake- looking at the force friction and thinking of materials that would cause the most friction to slow the wheel down quickly.

Class 6

This week in maths, we have been working on negative numbers - this included negative decimal numbers too. We have had to order numbers and work out number sequences. We have also spent time finding the difference between positive and negative numbers and then used our reasoning skills to answer word problems involving positive and negative numbers. In English, we have continued working on our class book, 'The Girl of Ink and Stars'. We have had to summarise chapters from the book as well as answer questions about the book. We have also completed work on synonyms and antonyms. In science this week, we have completed our forces topic by looking at friction and investigating the best materials for bicycle brakes. Some of us have also enjoyed learning the Jerusalem dance for the video that is going to be put together.

This week in photos. More information, videos and pictures found on our Facebook page



Hinduism

Hinduism is over 4,000 years old! It is the 3rd most practiced religion in the world. They believe in 7 true gods called Brahman. He is represented by lots of different gods and goddesses.

The sacred images of the representative gods and goddesses are called murtis. When Hindus pray they can pray in a certain order like Ganesha the elephant god first because he would take away anything that might stop the concentration needed for prayer. Their gods come in all shapes and sizes like the monkey god.

Types of Hindu worship
A form of Hindu worship is Puja, another is Darshan.

WANTED

BEWARE - ALIVE

REWARD 4,000 DOLLARS
REWARD 4,000 DOLLARS

BEWARE HE IS CRAZY!
BEWARE HE IS CRAZY!

VICTOR BRYNN


WANTED FOR
BECAUSE HE IS A NO-THING AND NEEDS TO BE STOPPED BEFORE HE SUCKS ALL THE BLOOD OUT OF EVERY LIVING THING IN KINGDOM. HE IS UNIMAGINABLY DANGEROUS AND A BEEN PROTECT YOUR APPARENTLY THEY ARE THE FLUTE OF THE BADLANDS AND IF LEFT EXPOSED THEN YOU ARE GIVING THEM A GROSSER DEATH SENTENCE!

DESCRIPTION

Class 3's Pizzas – Wow! They look delicious.

Design an Italian Pizza

Ingredients:
pizza base
Tomato sauce
Grated cheese
chicken
mushrooms
Sweetcorn



How to make a pizza:

1. Spread the tomato sauce on the pizza base evenly.
2. Sprinkle some grated cheese on your pizza.
3. Add toppings of your choice.
4. Put your pizza in the oven for ten minutes at 200°C.
5. Slice the cooked pizza and enjoy.



Achievements of the Week

Well done to Jenny Steele who has completed 400 star jumps each day for 14 days and has raised over £200 for cancer research UK.

Mrs Hazlehurst has completed 50 miles for Maggie's raising £200.

Congratulations to one of our grandparents, Frank Rothwell who has completed the Taliskar Whiskey Atlantic Challenge – solo rowing 3,000 miles across the Atlantic raising Money for Alzheimer's Research UK, raising over £1,000,000 so far. Wow. What an achievement.

<https://frankrothwell-atlanticchallenge.com/>
<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/frankrothwell>



Notices

Are your contact details up to date in ParentPay?

Please can every parent log into their Parent Pay account and ensure their contact details are up to date – we have quite a lot of families where both parents have the same mobile number registered in Parent Pay, so one parent gets the message multiple times, and the other parent doesn't get the message at all.

School Dinners Price increase

Oldham council will increase the cost of school meals by 15p from £2.40 to £2.55 for paid and free school meals from 1st April 2021. This will also mean school are left to fund the shortfall between the government allowance for all free school meals (including Universal FSM offered to all of years R, 1 and 2) and the increased price per meal.

With unknown economic impact of both Coronavirus and Brexit, the Council are also considering a further incremental 5p increase from September 2021 term, over the next three years, to address forecast national pay increases and food costs.

Following this increase, should you no longer wish your child to have school dinners, please email info@diggle.oldham.sch.uk and let Mrs McLoughlin know.

If you pay for your child's meals and want them to continue to take school meals, please ensure you increase your payments to cover the increase

New website address

We have a new website address ...

<https://diggleschool.co.uk/>

The old address will forward on for the time being, but if you can update your bookmarks that would be very helpful.

We announced a few weeks ago that FODS have been accepted into the Amazon SMILE programme. This gives us a donation direct to FODS of 0.5% on any eligible purchases.

This is a great way to support FODS and school.

To register FODS as your chosen charity you will need to do the following:

1. Visit smile.amazon.co.uk via your web browser
2. After logging in using your usual Amazon password, choose *Friends of Diggle School* as your chosen charity
3. Open your app and visit "settings" and "Amazon Smile", and then follow the steps to activate.
4. You'll need to renew the charity choice every 6 months, so we'll send our regular reminders.

The app will do it automatically, but if you usually shop on Amazon through the web, then start using smile.amazon.co.uk instead of Amazon.

FODS hope that this will be a great way for us to raise money at no extra cost to you.

We'll provide quarterly updates on how much we are raising. Happy Shopping!!



Google Classroom Help

Our IT technician Nigel has set up an email address which parents can use to contact him with any technical issues relating to

Google Classroom

technical@diggleschool.co.uk

We really do appreciate that helping your children access the online learning can be a challenge; be it lack of familiarity with the platform, or limited IT skills, or demands of your own work in terms of either time or use of available devices to use.

As well as using your child's teacher, Nigel on the above email address, and of course each other in the parent community, here are a few hints and tips to try and help with some of those teething problems:

- ✓ Please ensure that you are only logged in with the child's account on any device or Google Apps, this will ensure that the classroom work is always available. In most cases where the work cannot be seen it is because a personal Google account is in use.
- ✓ Remember to click "hand in" to send the work back to the teacher.

Newsletter after Half term

After half term we are going to trial sending the newsletter out as a link rather than an attachment, which should make it easier for those using data (ie on a phone).

Children's Mental Health

More of you are getting in touch concerned with how your children are coping in lockdown.

The situation we find ourselves in is really tough for everyone. Some parents who's children are at home with them all the time want them in school, and many of the parents who are having to go to work as keyworkers would rather they were at home with their children. Everyone is finding this hard.

At home within the same 4 walls day after day, it is easy to become isolated and feel that you are alone.

Young Minds say *"The COVID-19 pandemic is a new and uncertain time for all of us, so it is only natural that it will affect our mental health in different ways. However you are feeling right now is valid. With the right help and support, we can get through this."*

Since January, we have shared a variety of links to resources on how to help your children and yourselves cope better. Have a look back through the newsletters on the website if you haven't seen them all.

The NSPCC has a comprehensive website with lots of guidance for you as a parent to support your child.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/childrens-mental-health/depression-anxiety-mental-health/>

Young Minds has an excellent website with guidance for parents and older children to access

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/looking-after-yourself/coronavirus-and-mental-health/>

Coping with Half Term

The kids may be happy for a week without home-school, but as a parent it may fill you with dread – what on earth are you going to do with them every day?

It is important to try and keep some form of routine; children like the structure of knowing what is expected of them and when. Try drawing up a loose timetable, not necessarily with times, but "sessions" eg after breakfast, before lunch, afternoon, before tea etc and assign an activity – family walk, jigsaws, quiet time while parent works, lego, freetime, family game ... so the child knows when they have family time and when they have time on their own. Have the plan somewhere they can see it, then they will not be nagging you all day.

- ✓ try and keep a normal getting up and going to bed routine.
- ✓ Start the day with some activity – your daily walk or a Joe Wicks workout
- ✓ Make sure you do get out of the house every day for some fresh-air and exercise – you can only do this once a day so make the most of it.
- ✓ If you have to carry on working through half term, have a look at the primary programmes on the CBBC or bitesize, or have a "film session" where your child can be occupied while you work.
- ✓ Ask your child for one activity a day they would like to do, put them into a hat and draw one out each morning.
- ✓ Have a boredom pot, where your child can pull out an idea if they are stuck with what to do, especially if you are trying to work
 - ✓ Don't expect too much of yourself ... keep your expectations of each day realistic.

Suggestions;

- Walk to the garden centre and let your child choose some seed to plant on the windowsill at home – eg sunflowers
 - Draw a picture for a friend or relative they haven't seen
- Connect with a friend on the phone or a web chat – we all need to talk to someone.
 - Feed the birds – maybe even make your own fat/seed feeder in a pot
 - Go on a nature walk

Collective Wisdom

We thought it would be a nice idea to have a place where we can all share things we have found to be helpful in lockdown. This could be a website which your child has enjoyed using, or a series on Netflix or YouTube you/they have enjoyed watching, or a game you have played while out walking, or a tutorial on using Google Classroom you found helpful!! You get the idea. Please email your contribution to info@diggle.oldham.sch.uk and we look forward to sharing collective wisdom with you all.

Here are some ideas shared by parents this week – thank you to everyone who contributed.

One for the adults as much as the children – Lego have just realised **Lego White Noise** – background noise made with thousands of lego bricks, to help with mindfulness and concentration. It is a series of tracks of sounds we all recognise from rifling through buckets of Lego bricks as a child, looking for that one elusive brick, or tipping them all out, maybe even standing on them!!!. The album can be found on Spotify, YouTube, iTunes and the like ... as well as on lego.com.



<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2021>

Safer Internet Day

Every day there seems to be a another “*National Something*” day ... today for example is “National Plum Pudding Day”. Who would have known!!

On Tuesday, it was **Safer Internet Day**. Being safe on the internet is important *every* day ... especially now we are all relying on the internet so much more in lockdown.

Did you know we have comprehensive resources on our website about staying safe online.

For a parents: <https://diggleschool.co.uk/e-safety-parent-advice/>

For children: <https://diggleschool.co.uk/e-safety-student-advice/>

This time last year we were running internet safety talks for all KS2 parents as well as a special workshop for y6. In that parent workshop it is stressed that as the “guardian” of your child, it is important that you “guard” them from the perils of the internet, but often, our children seem to know more that we do as adults.

Please use the resources on the website to make sure you have the skills and understanding to keep you and your children safe online.

