



## 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

You may be aware that from next week all school staff will have the opportunity to take a rapid lateral flow Covid test. We are being asked to test twice a week in a bid to pick up asymptomatic cases amongst staff and so help reduce the spread of the virus. Should a case be picked up children and staff within that bubble will be required to self isolate for ten days as per government regulations. We will endeavor to let parents know as soon as possible should that be the case.

At the moment we seem to be getting at least a little snow each week. A quick reminder that if your child is in school on a day when we have snow, they will need either waterproof trousers or a change of bottoms if they are to play out. If your child is at home be sure to send the class teacher some pictures of them having fun in the snow.

## 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 ...



## 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.**



## 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.

## Class R

This week, Class R have been looking at the traditional tale 'Goldilocks & the Three Bears'. The children used actions to learn the story and created a story map. Class R also has their own Teddy Bear's picnic, where they looked at quantity and sharing. Finally, we learnt some facts about bears and talked about our favourite toys. Did you know there are eight species of bear? Can you name one? In Maths, we learnt about Part Part Whole models and looked at capacity with bowls or porridge. In Phonics, we learnt the sounds 'oo' (poo at the zoo) and 'ow' (blow the snow).

## Class 1

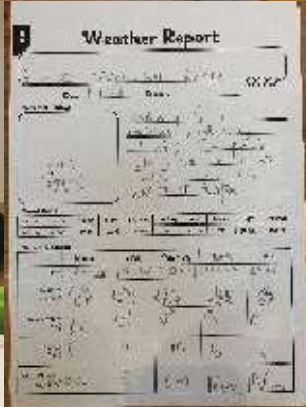
This week in Maths we have been learning about money. We have looked closely at the coins in order to name and recognise each one. We have ordered the coins and chosen coins to make specific amounts. We then challenged ourselves to make an amount in different ways using different coins. In English we have continued reading the Tale of Peter Rabbit. We looked at images from the story and wrote what happened in our own words. We have imagined what the sparrows might have said to encourage Peter and considered Peter's thoughts and feelings whilst he was lost in the garden. We thought of ways for Peter to escape the garden and imagined what Benjamin Bunny might have said to Peter about cats. In Phonics we have completed activities based on last weeks' sounds ay, ee and igh and we have looked again at the sounds ow and oo. In Theme we continued with our topic about famous people and learnt about the life of Emmeline Pankhurst and her efforts with the WSPU to get Votes for Women. In Science we have been learning about Winter Weather and we have recorded data over the week about the temperature, rainfall and wind direction. Some children learning at home made some fantastic video weather reports!

## Class 2

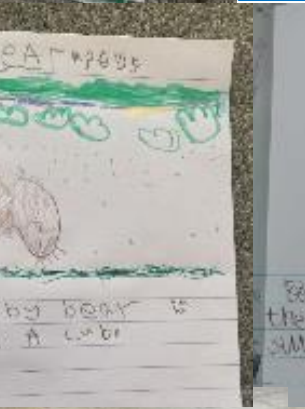
This week Class 2 have worked hard doing lots of measuring in centimetres and metres. We have been comparing and ordering measurements and having fun measuring practically too. We have continued to read our new class book 'Wild' by Emily Hughes, trying to first predict what the forest animals could do to help her and then reading on to find if our predictions were correct. As part of our reading work, we have found out about foxes, what they eat, where they live and some unusual facts too. Some of us have used what we had read to start our own fact files and mini books. In spelling work this week, we have investigated 'gn' and 'kn' words and also learned more of our secure spellings. We have made a super effort with our handwriting and are getting much neater. We enjoyed learning some new games in PE to help with speed and agility. It was good fun!

See the next page for this week in pictures. More information, videos and pictures found on our Facebook page.





Class R, 1 and 2 learning in pictures.







### Class 3

This week Class 3 enjoyed learning about France in their Europe theme. We looked at the artist 'Claude Monet' and tasted breads from France, describing their appearance and tastes before grading them in order of preference. The children enjoyed finding out their own facts about France as well as developing their mapping skills to show Human and physical features in France. In Maths, we have been handling data and looking at statistics. Children also filled in a form online to choose their favourite ice-cream and fruit before using the results to produce their own bar chart and pictogram. This was followed up with ICT activities on Purple Mash. We have looked at characters and how their appearances can be misleading with our work on The BFG; drawing our own and writing about them. We also worked on speech and helped the BFG correct his grammar!

### Class 4

Our theme topic focus this week was all about Spain! We researched and experimented in the style of Antoni Gaudi, filled in maps of Spain looking at the physical and human features, and we looked into the ingredients for paella. Some children even made their own paellas at home. In science we watched a video about Joseph Priestley and learnt some interesting facts about gas. For maths we have been concentrating on finding the areas of shapes while in English we have continued with Roald Dahl's The Witches.



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





Bread	Appearance	Feel/Texture	Taste
	They are soft, flaky and they hold their shape	They are soft and they hold their shape	They are soft and they hold their shape
	long, thin, white	was crunchy, sticky	was like sticky on the top
	They look soft, fluffy for chocolate	was crunchy	was just chocolatey
	round, golden and brown, flat	was flat, crispy	was

Class for home learning and projects

Class for home learning and projects	Class for home learning and projects	Class for home learning and projects	Class for home learning and projects
Class for home learning and projects	Class for home learning and projects	Class for home learning and projects	Class for home learning and projects



**Class 3**  
Home Learning - Map work and food tasting...



... and in school.





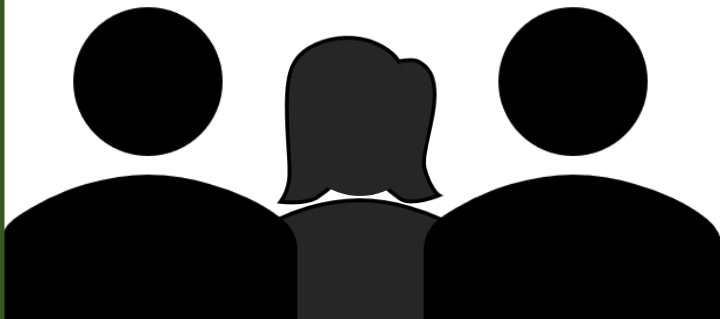
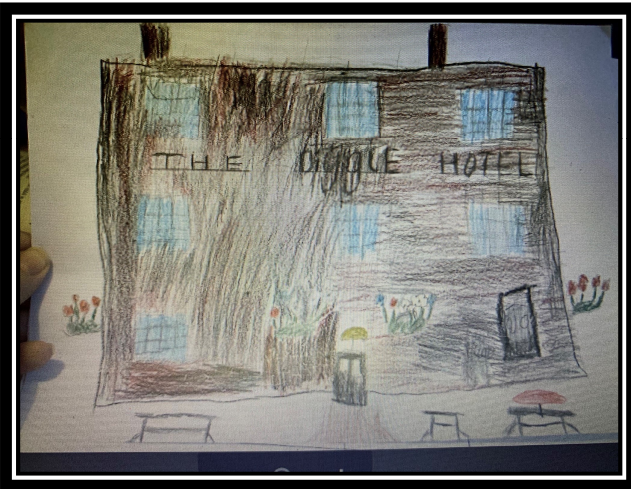








CLASS 5 and 6  
Art Gallery





## Community Spirit Support

As we said last week, we thought it would be a nice idea to have a place where we can all share things we have found to be helpful. 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](mailto: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.**

The [BBC Bitesize](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize) website has lots of lockdown learning, but they also have a section called Support which has lots of useful articles a bit like a magazine, aimed at parents  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/znsmyxc>

Also, did you know BBC Bitesize is available **data-free** on many mobile networks – including EE, O2, Sky Mobile, Smarty, Tesco mobile, Three, Virgin Mobile, and Vodafone

The team at [Amazon UK](http://blog.aboutamazon.co.uk) have compiled a list of all the free home-schooling resources available for parents to access – if you need to fill an extra hour or two while you get some work done, there may be some useful links here.  
<https://blog.aboutamazon.co.uk/in-the-community/home-schooling-resources-for-parents-carers-and-children-during-lockdown>

The Natural History Museum has several virtual tours of their exhibits, some audio guides narrated by Sir David Attenborough.  
<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/visit/virtual-museum.html>

**Lots of museums and zoos from around the world have virtual tours – search on “kids virtual tour” on Google**

The National Literacy Trust has a free online book a week from a popular children's author or illustrator along with exclusive videos and their top three recommended reads. <https://library.thenational.academy/>

## 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](mailto: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.**

[Google Toolkit](#) -

<https://m.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLP7Bvyb3ap44MII5eZ8RqY9VtuELuJ4eT>

See this link to learn more about the technologies your child is using for school with Google's own Tech Toolkit for Families and Guardians Video Series. See each video description for further links and guides.

## Useful Resources for Support

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/supporting-your-child-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

Tips, advice and where to get support for your child's mental health during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/coronavirus-advice-support-children-families-parents/>

Whether you're working from home with your kids or supporting children with anxiety due to coronavirus, we've got tips and advice for you.

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/>

Support for parents and other adults. Having good mental health helps us relax more, achieve more and enjoy our lives more. We have expert advice and practical tips to help you look after your mental health and wellbeing.

<https://mindedforfamilies.org.uk/>

MindEd is a free learning resource about the mental health of children, young people and older adults.

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/cco-childrens-guide-to-coronavirus.pdf>

It helps children if they can talk openly about what is happening and when parents can provide honest answers to any questions they have. The Children's Commissioner has written a guide to Coronavirus to help with these conversations.

[www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com)

Kooth is an online mental wellbeing community. Access free, safe and anonymous support.

## Notices

### Parent Pay

We appreciate things are financially challenging right now, but while we are in lockdown, please can we ask that you make every effort to clear any dinner money and BASC debts you may have so you can start back in credit. Thankyou.

As we are hoping that this lockdown will not be endless, any credit you have in BASC or school dinner accounts will be held on your parent pay account ready for our return.

### Childcare Vouchers

If you pay for BASC using childcare vouchers, please check whether you need to amend your payments while school is closed.

### Music Lessons

All parents of children taking music lessons have been contacted either via Parent Pay or, if you responded to the request last term to get in touch with your child's teacher and they have your email address – by the teacher directly.

Lessons are continuing, mostly delivered from school, either face to face to the children in school, or via live zoom link where the children are at home.

You MUST return the consent form for the live lesson to go ahead.

If you are unable to hold the lesson at the given time, please let your child's teacher know asap. The teacher may be able to record the lesson for you to be viewed at a more convenient time.

As per the sign-up agreement, fees for lessons remain due, and Spring Term fees should be paid over the next few weeks via Parent Pay.



# Coping with Lockdown

There are lots of things on social media at the moment about how best to cope with this lockdown. While we are in a stronger position now than last time because we have done this once already, and we have a vaccine being rolled out; for some the fear and uncertainty of last time has been replaced with an anxious dread of facing the next few months in lockdown, especially with young children.

As well as thinking about the children or young people in your care, it is important to take care of your own mental health and wellbeing. Children and young people react, in part, to what they see from the adults around them. Young Minds has a blog about coping with home learning from a parent and many will relate to the constant juggling described- <https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/a-parents-tips-for-home-schooling/>. The Government has issued [guidance on how to look after your mental health and wellbeing](#) during the COVID-19 pandemic or visit [Every Mind Matters](#) for clear advice and actions to take care of your mental health and wellbeing.



Some tips are:

- Try and maintain a daily routine, which includes your allowable daily exercise
- Don't compare yourself to others – there is no 'one size fits all'. Springing into productivity can be a coping mechanism for some, whilst others are then left comparing themselves; feeling like they should be doing more. You don't.
- Don't be too hard on yourself or those around you. Some days will be good days, some days won't.
- Try not to judge others – this pandemic is affecting us all differently
- While social media can provide a lifeline link to friends and family you are not getting to see, people aren't always honest about what they are up to, and false news is also spread this way. If being on social media is making you feel sad or anxious, take a break for a few days.
- Talk to your family and share your worries with them, encourage them to do the same, and listen to those around you with kindness.
- Ask for help when you need it
- Limit your exposure to the media.
- Ask everyone in your house to name something they are grateful for each day.
- Celebrate the little wins rather than dwell on the things you didn't do