



## 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



Welcome back, I hope you all had a lovely half term. On Monday we got the news we have all been waiting for, we will be able to welcome all our children back into school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. I will be sending a letter out early next week about how the school day will run.

We are planning for everything to look very much as it did when we were open from September to December. With the only noticeable difference being that staff will wear masks when moving around school. Children that have been accessing since January will already be used to this. We will ensure school is well ventilated, stick to our bubbles once more and ensure a rigorous hand washing routine. Staff will also continue to take twice weekly lateral flow tests. We cannot wait to welcome everyone back.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

Parents evening will take place after Easter, more details to follow soon  
Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> April – finish for Easter



HM Government



## **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.**



HANDS FACE SPACE

## 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 in Class R, we have reflected on our half term activities, while getting excited about our new topic 'Transport'. The children have talked about their favourite type of transport and we have looked at sorting different types air, sea and land transport. In Maths, we have started learning about the number 8 - it's great is the number 8! The children have also continued investigating time, seeing how many things they could do in 1 minute. Finally in Phonics, we have looked at the red words; 'all', 'said' and 'they'.

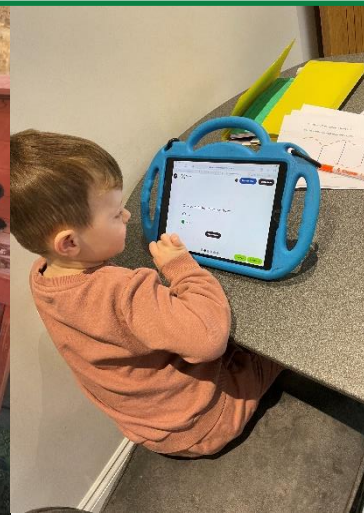
## Class 1

This week in English we have started to read a new story called Dogger. We have read the first few pages and we have written ideas about what we know so far about Dogger. We have made a prediction about what might happen in the story and we have written about our own favourite toys. In Maths we have been learning about the properties of 2D shapes. We have practised drawing the shapes, describing the shapes and counting how many sides and vertices they have. We have compared shapes and looked for similarities and differences between them. In Theme we have started our new topic 'Changes within Living Memory'. We talked about what living memory means and completed a KWL grid to show what we already know and the things we would like to know. We thought of some interesting questions about life in the past. In Science we began looking at materials. We learnt the names of different materials and looked at examples of these. In phonics we have applied our knowledge of ou and oy as well as revising the sounds ea, oi and a\_e.

## Class 2

This week Class 2 completed our book 'Wild'. We thought about the girl's feelings and how they have changed and wrote thought bubbles to show the feelings of some of the characters after they escaped back to the wild. As we have completed our phonics learning, this week, we moved onto spelling rules with a focus on adding ed, er or est to a root word. To get ready for more joined writing, we have been investigating 'Ground, Grass and Sky' handwriting!! It shows us how our letters should look in relation to each other. In maths this week we have been working with money. We played a game to learn to recognise all the coins that we use, and we have been finding different ways to make the same amount. We have also practiced using money to buy some items from the healthy eating café menu using addition and subtraction on an empty number line to work out the answers. This week we started our Science mini-theme about keeping healthy. We learned the meanings of important vocabulary we need to know, designed and tested a set of one-minute exercises and investigated what happens to our bodies after exercising. Last of all we planned a healthy and nutritious lunch.

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



Class R have been very busy this week!

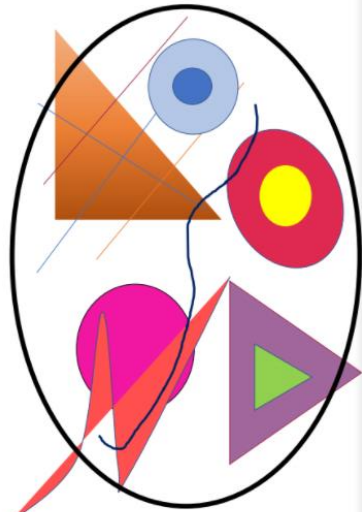
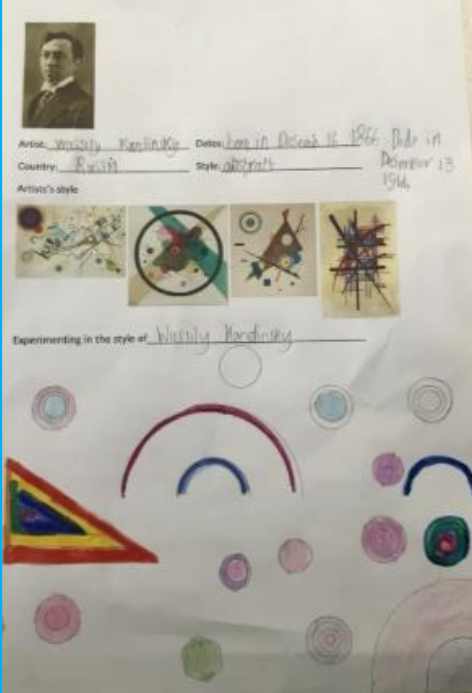


Year 1 have been very busing this week with their learning!





Class 3's  
art  
inspired  
by the  
Russian  
artist,  
Wassily  
Kandinsky



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

### Class 3

This week, Class 3 have had a poetry week. The children have produced some fantastic poems involving lot of sounds and verbs as well as shape poems and a backward poem. They have really used their learning from this year to include similes and other writing features such as onomatopoeia. On Friday, they had the chance to perform The Sound Collector which was great fun! In maths, we have been learning to tell the time on an analogue clock and then converted it to digital. Our European visit took us to Russia this week where we learnt some Russian dancing as well as looking at the art of Wassily Kandinsky. Some of us used computer graphics to create work inspired by him.

### Class 4

We have been learning all about the United Kingdom is our theme topic this week. After plotting the human and physical features on a map, we looked at the artist LS Lowry and planned our own full English breakfast...yum yum. We began our new RE topic 'People of Faith' with a look at the life of Malala Yousafzai - what an inspiration! In maths we started a new unit on multiplying and dividing decimal numbers by 10, 100 and 1000 while in English we continued with our class text The Witches.

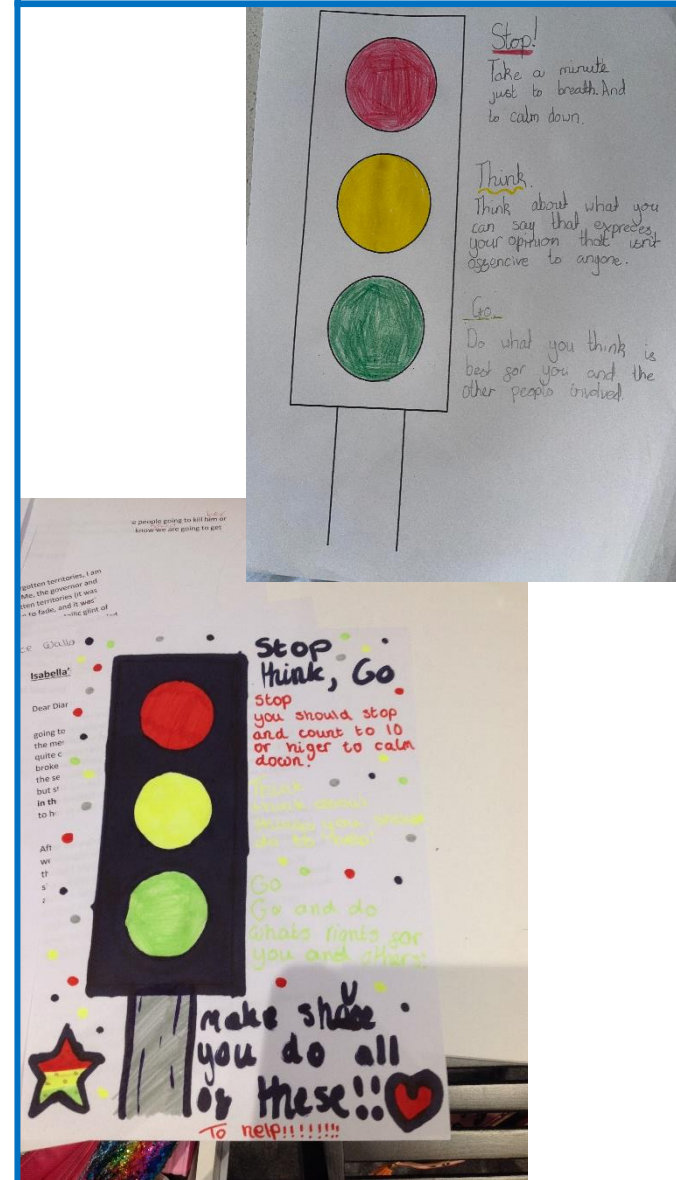
## Class 5

This week in Maths the children have been consolidating their learning in rounding to the nearest 10, 100, 1000 and the nearest whole number. In English, the children have written a diary entry from the point of view of Jones (one of the main characters in the story) thinking carefully about how he feels about wanting to become a 'normal boy' and leaving Ruby Jenkins to become a Badlander all by herself. They have started new topics in both Science and Theme; in Science they have been introduced to properties of materials where they have had to investigate different materials and think about why they are used for certain things. In Theme they will be learning about North America; they have started the topic by thinking about what they already know and what they would like to find out and have then researched countries and capital cities in both North and South America.

## Class 6

In maths this week, we have been plotting coordinates in four quadrants, which means plotting negative coordinates too. To begin with, we had to learn how to draw the coordinate grid accurately. We have had to use our reasoning skills to work out missing coordinates. In English, we have used one chapter from our book, 'The Girl of Ink and Stars', as the focus of our writing. We have had to plan, write and edit a diary entry as Isabella who has entered the Forgotten Territories in search for her missing friend, Lupe. In science this week, we have started a new topic - materials and their properties. We have started this off by naming and identifying materials that we already know. We also discussed the difference between natural and man-made materials. In SMSC this week, we looked at how it is important to think about the consequences of our actions and what we say. As part of this, we created 'traffic light' posters about how we can stop and think before we act/speak and choose the right response to what we are facing.

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



## 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](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.

**FREE** BBC Mini Maestro online writing course for children aged 7-12 by **David Walliams** - designed to entertain and inspire children to create their own stories, the course contains a series of digestible, child-friendly video lessons

**BBC MAESTRO**



and a companion activity book – filled with fun exercises to help develop children's creative writing skills and confidence.

Its available up until 31/03/2021

Click [HERE](#) for a YouTube video about it or

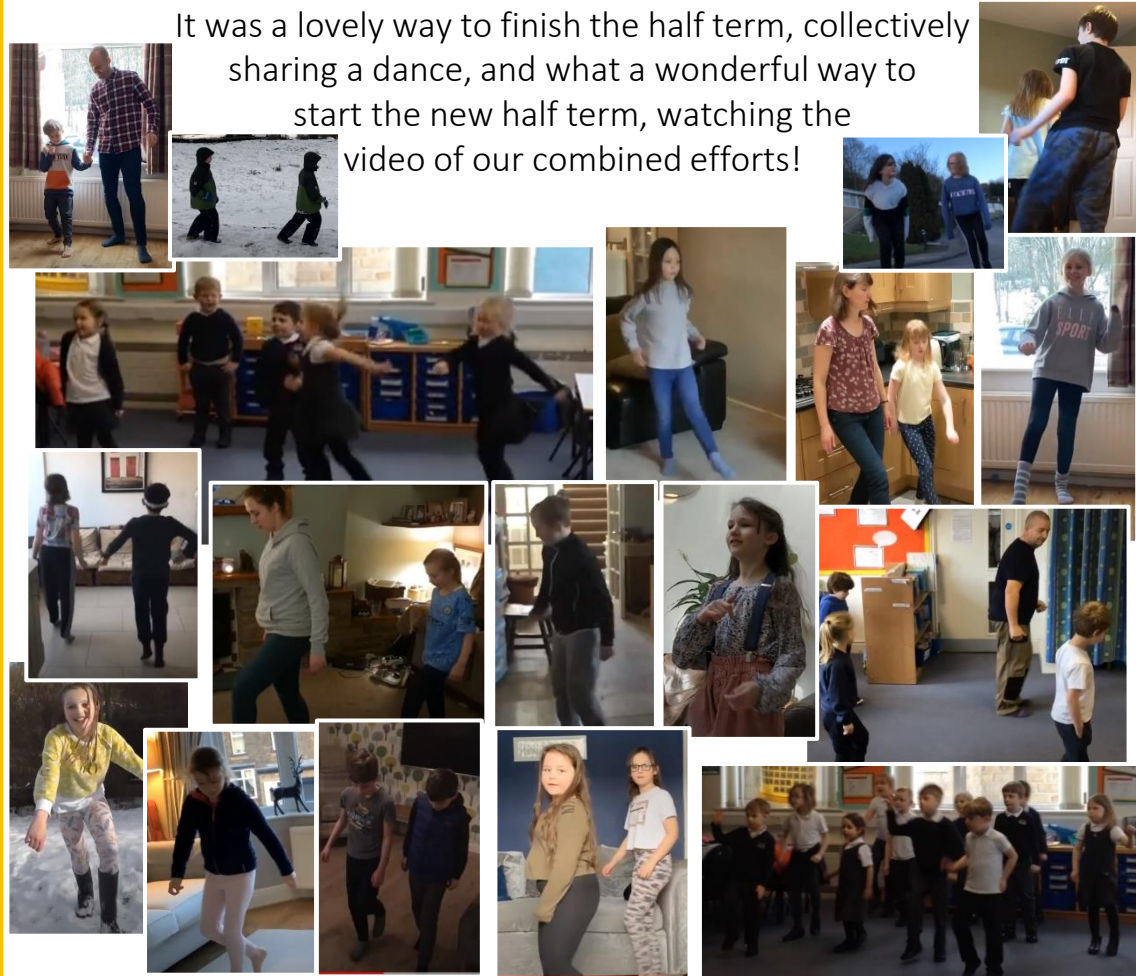
<https://www.bbcmaestro.com/courses/david-walliams/mini-maestro-writing-course>

## Jerusalema Dance

Have you seen our amazing Diggle School version of the Jerusalema dance? Check it out on our Facebook Page!

A HUGE thankyou to all the children who took part, and the parents and staff who joined in too! And also, a HUGE thankyou to Mrs Bradbury for spending her half term break putting the video together from all the clips submitted by the pupils.

It was a lovely way to finish the half term, collectively sharing a dance, and what a wonderful way to start the new half term, watching the video of our combined efforts!



## 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 whose 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/>

## RAINBOW OF HOPE

Easter represents hope and after the storm the sun shines clearer. To put the message of 'HOPE' out please type in the link below to download. Print out the mini rainbow poster, in colour or black and white (if you prefer to colour your own Rainbow) Put the poster in your window as a sign of where true 'HOPE' lies.  
[Easter Means Hope.com](http://EasterMeansHope.com)



## PARISH PEBBLES !

**Kilngreen Church are asking anyone who would like to get creative for Easter to paint and varnish a small pebble (or similar) with an Easter design. From now until Easter your finished creation can then be placed outside Church in a safe visible place. All welcome to join in with this activity. For more details contact;- Suzanne 07733335784**





## Virtual Schools Competition 2021



**Competition:** Show us your best football trick shot? Add in your amazing celebration! Have a look at our example by clicking [HERE](#)

**How to enter:** Email your entries to [becky.topping@cityfootball.com](mailto:becky.topping@cityfootball.com) or tag us on social media @citctweets and remember to let us know what school you are from

**Closing date:** Sunday 7th March



*Please make sure you have your parent/guardians permission before posting anything online*

## Coming Out Of Lockdown

The move out of lockdown is understandably likely to bring mixed feelings for both children and grown-ups. Especially as the situation is constantly changing. It is important to remember that even good changes can be tricky to manage.

Most of us will have changes that we are worried about or make us nervous. These will be different for different people. Our children are all different too and may worry about some things more than others.

**Give children space to share their fears.** It's natural for children to worry. Let them know they can always come to you for answers or to talk about what scares them. It can help to have 'worry time', a set part of the day to get all the worries out. Sometimes children find it helpful to write worries down and throw them away. Remember, no worries are 'silly' and try not to use phrases like 'don't worry'. Children might be worrying about something which seems small to us as adults but are very real to them!

**Let your children know that it's normal to feel stressed at times.** Everyone does. Recognising these feelings and knowing that stressful times pass can help children build resilience.

**Know what they're looking at.** Be aware of how your children get news and information, especially older children who go online independently. Point them to age-appropriate information, like BBC Newsround and First News. If you are talking with the other adults around you, or on the phone, just be aware of what children can hear. They might not always look like they are listening, but it is amazing what they do hear, especially when you don't want them too!

**Give your child specific things they can do to feel in control and focus on what you are doing to feel safe.** Teach children that things in their control, like getting lots of sleep and washing their hands well, eating healthily and exercise can help them stay strong and well. Talk about all the things that are happening to keep people safe and healthy, for example keeping to class bubbles and staggered start and finish times at school, everyone wearing masks when inside shops, lots of hand washing and sanitizing, and the vaccine roll out.



## Respect and Resourcefulness in the Community

Flick and Timmy Drake have been litter picking this half term - in fact they have done a litter pick almost once a week during lockdown (except in the snow which made things a little difficult!)

We are really proud of how they love looking after their environment. Well done!



## 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](mailto: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.

## 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)

- ✓ 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.

amazon smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

For those of you who purchase through **AMAZON**, please consider choosing **Friends of Diggle School** as your preferred charity on **Amazon Smile**. Every bit of money FODS raises comes back into school, and Amazon Smile is a great way to help just by doing your normal shopping.

amazon smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

If you use the Amazon App on your phone and you registered for Amazon Smile when we first mentioned FODS was a registered charity – **you will need to re-activate the Amazon Smile option in the app**, as it periodically reverts back to normal Amazon – go to the app, the click the three lines in the top left corner by the Amazon logo, then find Amazon Smile in the list and reactivate.

amazon smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.



## Parking outside school

If you are bringing your child to school in a vehicle, please remember the restrictions related to the yellow zig zag lines and double yellow lines are still in operation.

**Please do not park on the zig zag lines between 8am and 5pm**, and given the significant reduction in traffic volume, no-one should need to park in the entrance to Heather Way or use this entrance to turn around.

