



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

Next week is the last week before the half term break. School will be closed to all pupils for that week and there will be no home learning set. Hopefully you will all be able to take some time to relax and go back to being mum and dad without having to try and also be your child's teacher. I wanted to take this opportunity to let you all know what an amazing job you are doing at home. The staff have been really impressed by the lengths some of you have managed to go to with the activities set. However, we are also incredibly impressed at the way you as parents are managing to balance your own work commitments and usual family issues with being a teacher and all in the middle of a global pandemic. When it feels difficult remember that you are doing your very best and that is all anyone can ask of you. Hopefully we will only have a couple of weeks after half term and then the government will allow the children to return. In the meantime, keep up your excellent efforts. The staff really appreciate your support in helping us to keep the children learning.

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 ...



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.**



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 learning the story of 'Jack & the Beanstalk'. The children were able to retell the story, using story actions and making their own beanstalk models at home. The models were all fab, and the children used a variety of materials and techniques in order to construct them. We have also been talking about what is a hero and what is a villain, and if Jack was the hero or the villain in the story, In Maths, we have looked at the number 6, applying our knowledge of Part Part Whole and measuring height. The children have also started an experiment to see if they can grow their own beanstalks! In RE, the children have been learning stories from different religions such as; Christianity, Buddhism, Sikh and Islam. Finally, in Phonics, we have learnt the Set 2 vowel sounds; 'or' and 'ir'. Super work Class R, both at school and at home!

Class 1

This week in English we have been retelling the story of Peter Rabbit. We made a story map to help us remember the order of the events and then we used pictures as prompts to write small sections of the story each day this week. We have tried to write in the past tense and remember our capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. In Maths this week we have been revising key skills such as doubling and halving, ordering numbers, adding and subtracting by counting on and back. In phonics we have recapped on the sounds air and ir and applied our knowledge of the sounds ar, or and oo. In Theme we learnt about Christopher Columbus and why he is famous as the first European to discover America. We learnt about the food and animals he took there and those that he brought back to Europe. In Science we learnt more about Hibernation as a way for animals to survive the winter

Class 2

Class 2 have used our class book 'Wild' by Emily Hughes to learn how to make our writing more interesting. We used nouns and adjectives to create noun phrases to use in our writing. We also looked at prepositions and used them in settings work about the story. This week in spelling work we have been sorting muddled words, phoneme spotting and practising our key words too. In maths activities we have been counting sequences of numbers, looking for patterns in number families and using a 100 square to accurately count on and back. For our theme 'A Day in the Life', we are learning about how people lived many years ago. After listening to a story called 'Peepo' by Janet and Allan Ahlberg last week we have been investigating children's toys now and in the past. We had a fun online session for show and tell about our favourite toys. We also had great fun in the snow earlier in the week"



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

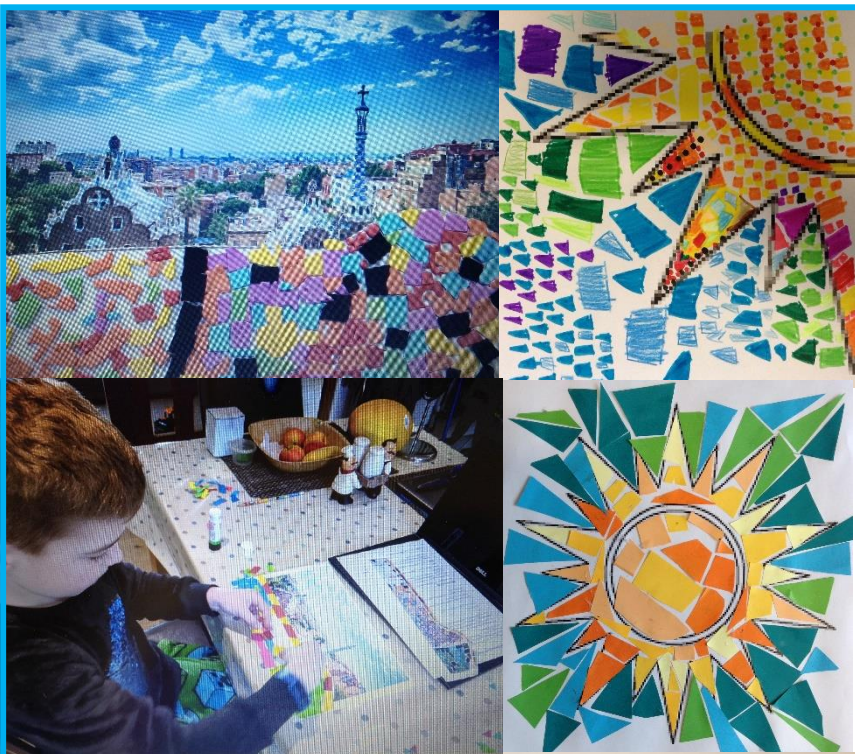
Class 3

This week, Class 3 have been writing instructions and studying recipes for English. They had to create a recipe to make snozzcumbers more appealing to The BFG and Sophie and improve a mixed-up set of instructions to make toast. As part of our learning about Spain for their Europe theme, they have done their own research on the country, mapped human and physical features on a map then researched the traditional dish, Paella, designing their own by choosing ingredients. We have also studied the artist and architect, Antoni Gaudi, visiting Park Güell in Barcelona on a video before recreating our own mosaic patterns in a similar style either by cutting mosaics or drawing them. In maths, we have been learning to use the formal column method for multiplication and in science we investigated materials, finding out which were reflective and what they have in common.



Class 4

We have been challenged in maths this week by looking at the 'bus stop method' of division. We recapped how to do it and then worked our way through a series of worksheets. This formal method is a very important fundamental in our maths work going forward and the children have done really well. We continued reading The Witches in English. One fun task this week was to write down the recipe for Formula 86 Delayed Action Mouse Maker. In Science we looked at the water cycle and drew instructive diagrams, labelling the images and the processes that take place. The Netherlands has been the focus for theme and we also found time to watch another fun Groundbreakers assembly and take part in our City In The Community lesson.



After researching, Class 3 worked in the style of the Spanish artist Antoni Gaudi to produce these stunning mosaic pieces for their Europe theme.

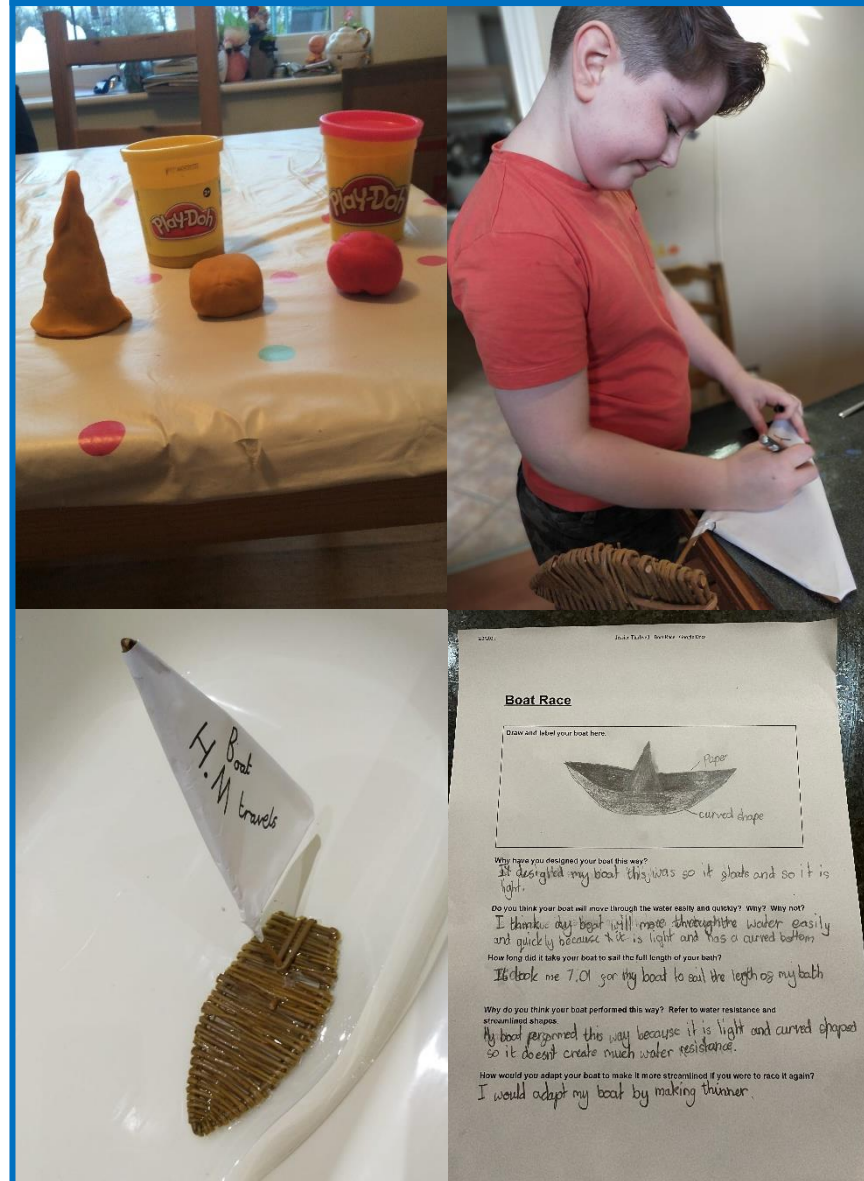
Class 5

This week in Maths, class 5 have been reading and interpreting information displayed on a variety of timetables; bus and train, cinema etc. They have had to look closely at how you read them, as they are not always the same as each other and then find the correct information to answer the questions. In English they have continued reading Chapters from 'The Boy with One Name' and have produced 'role on the wall' sheets for the main characters Jones and Ruby; the children have had to think back over all of the chapters we have read so far and include as much information as they can about what the characters look like, how they feel, what they hope to be etc.

Class 6

This week in English, we have continued our work on our book, The Girl of Ink and Stars. We have written our own versions of what will happen to Isabella, Pablo, the Governor and his men as they enter the Forgotten Territories. We have also completed some comprehension on the book. In maths, we have been working out problems involving negative numbers and the conversion of units of measure. In science this week, we have been looking at water resistance. For this, we had to design and make our own boats. We tried to make them as streamlined as possible so make them quicker. We then timed them floating the length of our baths to see if our design worked.

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



Class 6

Class 6 have been working hard doing science experiments this week.



Notices

Parent Pay

Oldham council has predicted a £350k per year projected deficit in the schools catering budget. In order to ensure ongoing quality and balanced nutritious meals are provided, they 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.

The Council state that this is a course of action undertaken very reluctantly and that they recognise the impact on family finances and school budgets at a very difficult time.

With unknown implications of quality local food supplies and potential 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@diggie.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

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.

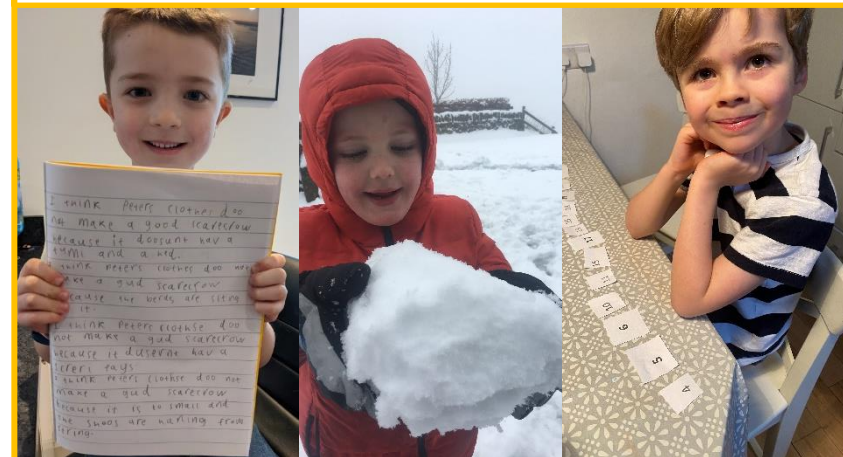
If you listen to the “Fortunately ...” BBC podcast, you will have heard about this “mask hack” already – but as suggested by Fi Glover, if you are missing sunny holiday getaways, try spraying a bit of suntan lotion on the inside of your mask ... you will have that lovely holiday aroma with you to make you smile throughout the day when you are wearing your mask. ☺

We have had lots of fun playing Kahoot as a family – it gets everyone having fun together, so parents are happy, and it involves a screen, so kids are happy!!! There are lots of topics, from Disney characters to current world affairs. Young children can team up with adults in teams or you can play individually. We play using the app, but you can play on the website too.



Class 1

Class 1 have been very busy this week playing in the snow, doing Maths, English and Art.



Kahoot!

NETFLIX

YouTube



Class R

Class R's
fantastic
model
beanstalks.



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.

Website downtime

Our website is undergoing some changes behind the scenes next week and will not be available for some of the time Thursday 11th overnight into Friday 12th February.

If you are trying to access it during these dates and get an error, please try again a couple of hours later.

Covid Help for Families

To support parents during this difficult time. The Oldham Council mental wellbeing team have worked with the charity *Bounce Forward* to produce a small video with practical tools to support family wellbeing. There is a short presentation slide deck attached to the newsletter, which contains a link to an accompanying [video](#) (also linked here and pasted below).

The Key Messages are:

- ✓ Focus on the Good Things
- ✓ Notice Strengths
- ✓ Remember to laugh
- ✓ Create a safe space
- ✓ Tool kit for wellbeing

If the video doesn't work, copy and paste the following into your browser:
https://zoom.us/rec/play/hXs2E5p7ljC2gbxFRMzP87eXNmE-hIGU4FUCnFW3IM1oOvWu_3JgLcbgh2ADz2HbZ3vK-s0WzjJQbMAX.wvOTr6n4zZanVN1u?continueMode=true&_x_zm_rtaiid=mHwcd_hfThaeKzF-o-vffA.1611650979566.cd4699f94b962658a249b1e6f2f33a49&_x_zm_rhtaid=145

Woodwind Star of the Week



A massive 'WELL DONE' to Minnie Grange in Year 4 for her fabulous efforts this week, showing great dedication in learning to play her flute. During her online Zoom lesson Mrs. Thomas (Woodwind Teacher) was hugely impressed, particularly with Minnie's performance of 'Funky Mikki' played beautifully in time together with the backing track for the first time. Minnie played with a confident awareness of the beat and her sound was awesome! This certificate is in recognition of Minnie's consistent drive and determination to be the best she can be. Her hard work is paying off! **STAR OF THE WEEK – congratulations.**

Children's Mental Health Week



The mental health of the children in our care is a priority all year round, but staying mentally healthy is harder for all of us under these lockdown conditions. This week has been Children's Mental Health week, and there have been resources issued by various organisations because of this which can be used throughout the year.

www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk This year's theme is **Express Yourself**.

They say: *Expressing yourself is about finding ways to share feelings, thoughts, or ideas, through creativity. It is about finding a way to show who you are, and how you see the world, that can help you feel good about yourself. As parents and carers, you play an important role in your child's mental health.*

Watch Royal Patron [HRH The Duchess of Cambridge's video message](#) to mark the start of the week. Watch a [Virtual Assembly](#) with BAFTA and Oak National Academy – featuring Jodie Whittaker, Oti Mabuse, Matthew Lewis and many more... There are also [free resources](#) can be adapted for use at home.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/55890449> **BBC Newsround** talks in a child-friendly way about why mental health is important and what children can do to try and stay mentally healthy.

Helping with homeschooling.

The longer homeschooling goes on, the harder it is to keep focus and keep patience. Both parents and children are all doing a great job of keeping it all going at home, and we really do appreciate the struggle that parents have juggling home school and work - after all many staff at school are in the same boat, (you may have seen / heard your teacher's children in the background when they are doing their live lessons from home!)

Here are some ideas to help parents manage a couple of dominant home school issues that are arising.

Focus - or lack of it.

In school we have utilised active classroom techniques for some time now (we did an open day on it a few years ago), on the basis that say 45 mins of focus is better than an hour or more of drifting unfocused (i.e. the old adage of quality not quantity). In school one of the active classroom tools we use is a website called [Go Noodle](https://www.gonoodle.com/).

GoNoodle

They have a family focused part of their site too (<https://family.gonoodle.com/>). There are all sorts of short videos on here depending on the situation, that the child can do themselves or with you ... you may find them helpful to keep focus yourself! In school we would may use a couple of videos during a session so the children focus for around 20 minutes take a break and then re focus. The videos have both energising and calming videos and everything in between. I wonder what your child enjoys?



We also use the daily mile in a similar way - and we encourage all families to get outside for a short (or long) walk every day.

If Go Noodle or a walk isn't an option at the time you need it, your child could stand on the doorstep / go in the garden (so they are also getting fresh air) and time themselves doing a 5 min burst of exercise - try a minute of each of these - running on the spot, squats, star jumps, side lunges and running on the spot and punching the air.

It is easy as adults to try and encourage our children to work through the lack of focus because that is what we often have to do at work ourselves, but a child who has lost focus can be a disruptive child, which in turn makes it harder for you to get on with your own work. Try adding in short bursts of active classroom techniques as and when required / as a matter of routine between sessions and you may find it better for both of you.

Helping with homeschooling (continued)

"I can't do it"

In the current difficult climate it is understandable that as parents we don't want to see our children struggle or be upset about anything. However our children are very smart and can quickly realise this, and then use it to their advantage. In school we encourage children to have a go themselves first, before they ask for help. They know this expectation and accept it, and rarely get upset by it because they know the teacher will help and support them, but they need to try first.



At home, now the parent is also the teacher, this approach is harder to fulfil as the child knows the parent doesn't like so see them struggle or get upset. If you have a child who is telling you they can't do it and expecting you to do it for them, and getting upset or frustrated if you resist, try telling them that

"school have explained that you need to try yourself first, and have given me permission to stand back for a short time while you try, just like your teachers do. I will help you, just like your teachers do, when you have shown me that you have tried yourself, but I won't do it for you".

THE POWER OF YET!



Another thing you could try is pretending to be the child's teacher while you do homeschool this could especially add some light relief into the equation where there is a gender difference – a male parent pretending to be a female teacher and a female parent pretending to be a male teacher. Adding a bit of fun could release the tension a bit and help distinguish between being "parent" and "homeschool teacher".

The other thing to bear in mind that in your eagerness to not see your child struggle, there is a temptation to ensure they turn in a perfect piece of work. Your child's teacher would much rather see an incomplete piece of work with an explanation that they did their best, or a piece of work with mistakes in it that is mostly your child's work (i.e. supported but still their own work), than perfect pieces the parent has effectively completed themselves. Your child's teacher needs to know what your child can and can't do, what they are grasping and what they aren't, and if you as the parent are doing the work for them, the child is missing out on vital learning opportunities with their teacher.

This is hard for everyone, and but will get through it together, and by supporting each other and keeping the communication going between home and school, the children in our care will be able to continue to learn and grow.