

Head teacher's Comment

We have made it to the Easter Holidays, so well done everyone. The staff have really enjoyed seeing all the work that has come in via e mail we are so proud that our children and parents have embraced the new online environment with such gusto.

Now we feel you all deserve a relaxing few weeks off. On line learning will resume on Monday 20th April.

However, as you are confined to your house and garden for the next fortnight we have got together (virtually) as a staff and come up with some challenges and activities that you could do over the Easter holiday period. These are purely optional so please don't feel any pressure to take part.

You can send photo's to the staff, who once we come back on the 20th April, will share some of the images on Facebook and the first newsletter back.

Stars of the Week

As the children are not in at the moment and we are not doing stars, a parent has suggested that it might be nice to recognise some of the **Stars of our Community**. We thought this was a lovely idea. So if your child wants to suggest an adult that they feel proud of because they are working hard on the front line fighting against Covid -19 either in the NHS or by ensuring we all have the food we need, please send us a photo and some writing telling us why this person should be a Star of the Week. Make sure you have permission to use their photo. If not we could just name them. It would be our opportunity to say thank you.
We will try and feature at least one a week.



Easter Activities



- ❖ **The Great Easter Bake Off** - see last week's Diggle Star / parent Whatsapp group for details but note the cut-off date is now Friday 17th April not the 9th.
- ❖ **Easter reading challenges.** Can you read a book that starts with each letter of "Easter" and make a poster of your titles so it looks like an acrostic? Or can you read a book in every room of your house and send your teacher a picture.
- ❖ **Decorate an egg.** Can you boil an egg and then decorate it to be anything you like, favourite tv/film/book character or maybe something to do with Easter? Have fun and share your egg photo's with staff.
- ❖ **Make an Easter bonnet or basket** out of anything you like. Send your teacher some photo's



What have we learnt?

Class R This week Class R's learning definitely had an egg theme and the children did a great job completing the eggciting activities. Mrs Bradbury and Miss Leach were again overwhelmed with all the great learning they were able to see. We particularly liked all the Andy Goldsworthy inspired land art and how messy everyone got making playdough! Keep up the eggceptional work Reception and we look forward to talking to you again after the holidays!

Class 1 This week in Maths we have been working on our individual tasks on Maths Whizz. In English we have focused on sentence work on Purple Mash and have written about our own favourite soft toys. We have also been busy with Phonics, practicing our speed sounds and word blending. In Theme we have been finding out how alarm clocks have changed over time, what people did before they had alarm clocks and we have designed an alarm clock for the future.

Class 2 This week Class 2 have been focusing on completing traditional tales activities. They have looked at Little Red Riding Hood and written a letter to the Woodcutter and an email to Grandma. There were some good descriptive words used and some interesting sentence starters. They have also continued to work hard on their Maths Whizz challenges. In Science work, the children have researched what different animals eat and how they get their food. They have also investigated the meanings of some of our Sticky Knowledge science words. Miss Spivey and Mrs Rawson have enjoyed reading emails from the children and looking at photographs of what they have been up to!

Class 3 This week the children have worked extremely hard. We have focused on root words, suffixes as well as descriptions and similes in our book The BFG. We used the descriptions to draw the 2 characters from the book; the giant and Sophie when they first get to the cave. We have also been working hard on Maths Whizz and TTRockstars and a bit of competition entered into the Arena when a parent joined in! Have a great Easter :)

Class 4 We have begun our class text *The Witches* this week in English. We thought about how many Roald Dahl books we knew, before comparing the witches described in his book to witches from classical fiction. We then had a go at drawing them. We went on to read a further chapter which examined the boy's Grandmother and her experience of witches. As she is from Norway, we researched the country and learned about the geography, currency, cuisine, history and many other aspects. Our theme topic lasted all week as we researched Roman amphitheatres and gladiators. We presented our findings as posters, booklets and PowerPoint presentations.

Class 5 Class 5 have continued reading their class novel this week where we have learn more about the Badlander Maitland and some of the interesting creatures he kept in his study. We have created our own mythical plants that will grow different things- taking ideas from the book where Jones used his own belly button to grow a memory bush so that he could find where his real parents live. We have also been on Maths Whizz and TT Rockstars daily. Thank you to all children and parents for your continued support over the past 2 weeks. Although you might not be able to do all you had planned, have a lovely Easter with your families.

Class 6 This week, Class 6 have continued reading the book, *The Girl of Ink and Stars*. From this, children were asked to create their own horrible beast which lurked the Eastern Coast. They have also written descriptive paragraphs and answered questions about the book. The children were also asked to research cartography and create an information leaflet about it. It's been lovely seeing the work that has been sent in to me and how hard the children have been working.

Class 2

Our children have been very busy finding new ways to keep active and continue with their learning. We love getting photographs from our children to see what they have been up to.



Due to the current situation we are in, unfortunately Diggle Holiday Club will be closed over the Easter holidays! All the staff were looking forward to welcoming the children and families old and new as we had some lovely activities planned! These can still go ahead as club will be posting the activities on their Facebook page for you to try at home. The staff would love you to share your creations on their page for them to see as well as your friends. We just want to reassure you that the activities are not compulsory and can be done if you choose to at leisure. We understand this is a difficult time for everyone and you may wish to spend the holidays recharging and relaxing but please feel free to use the activities. Please stay safe and have a lovely Easter break.

<https://www.facebook.com/Diggleholidayclub>



What lovely Easter Cards



Someone looks very pleased with this amazing model.



Graces obstacle course is helping her adults to keep fit too.



Brilliant model.



Reception Class

Our Reception children have been very busy this week. We hope you enjoy these super photo's.



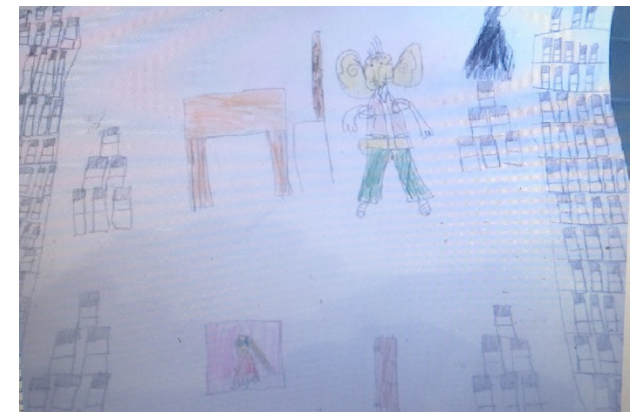
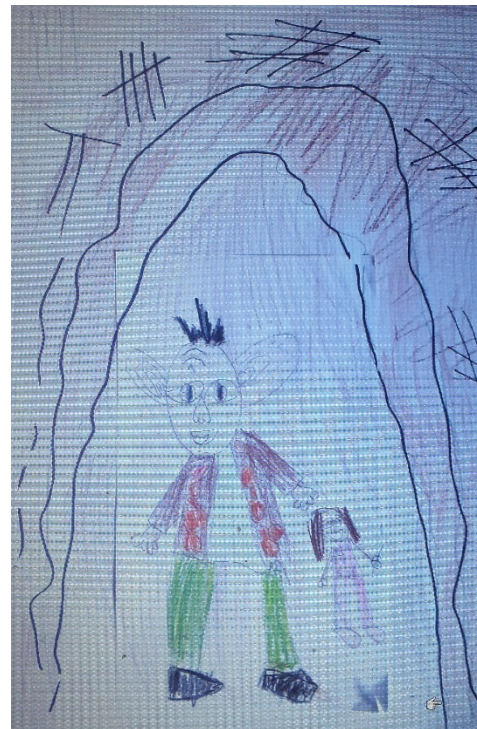
Class 6

Joe making good use of the furniture and getting a bit of help from his big brother to do his exercises.



Class 3

The children were asked to draw pictures of Sophie and her new Giant friend from their class novel. Some super examples came in, well done everyone.



Update from Mr Booth, head of Oldham Music Service:

I'm pleased to be able to report that, thanks to the monumental efforts of the Oldham Music Service staff, the preparations for online delivery of lessons are all but complete and we will be issuing log-in details to schools very shortly. We have asked them to pass these on to parents of children that receive lessons in schools from OMS teachers.

Modules of work have been prepared for those receiving small group tuition (vocal and instrumental), whole class instrumental (lessons have been designed to work even if students haven't had the opportunity to take instruments home) and classroom, curriculum music. The lessons will be updated on a weekly basis for the duration of the current crisis and we hope that they will form part of each family's home schooling arrangements.

We are also now turning our attention to developing activities for students that attend the Lyceum and we plan to start rolling out virtual band practices and other rehearsals shortly after Easter. As before, watch this space.

In the meantime, please continue to follow us on Facebook, on Twitter or on <http://oldhammusicservice.co.uk/> for the latest updates and things to do.

Keep safe, look after each other and make music!

Also, have a look at the Music Centre webpage - Things To Do section: including **Garden Gig Oldham**

With schools closed, we need to keep our young musicians active and playing. Inspired by our friends at Sheffield Music Hub, we want you to participate in our #gardengigoldham - make music at 4pm.

Young Voices at Home

Some singing fun on Facebook live in the morning with the musical director of Young Voices; join in at 11am

Easter Day - Let the nation play!



Calling all musicians across Saddleworth and beyond!

One of the greatest Easter hymns is 'Thine be the glory' to the tune 'Maccabaeus', part of an oratorio by Handel.

Given the huge number of musicians we have across Saddleworth, we are proposing to come together as a community and encourage everyone to go into their garden (balcony/terrace/solitary place) and play three verses of 'Thine be the glory' at 12 noon on Easter Day (Sunday 12th April).

It is such a familiar Easter hymn and something in which people of all ages and abilities could be encouraged to participate.

Musical scores are available for a large variety of instruments at <https://coeis.uk/tbtg>

Does it matter that we would not be synchronised? No!

Spread the word – 'Let the nation play!'

#LetUsPlay

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

Kooth.com

Online support for young people


We would like to remind you of the availability of our online service to support the **wellbeing** and **resilience** of young people.

Kooth is a web based confidential support service available to young people. Kooth provides a safe and secure means of accessing mental health and wellbeing support designed specifically for young people.

Kooth offers young people the opportunity to have a text-based conversation with a qualified counsellor. Counsellors are available from 12noon to 10pm on weekdays and 6pm to 10 pm at weekends, every day of the year on a drop-in basis. Young people can access regular booked online counselling sessions as needed. Outside counselling hours' young people can message our team and get support by the next day.

When young people register with Kooth they will have support available to them now and in the future. Support can be gained not only through counselling but articles, forums and discussion boards. All content is age appropriate, clinically approved and fully moderated.

To find out more visit kooth.com where young people can register and others can find out more about the service.



kooth



Virtual Support sessions.

- Below is a list of upcoming free virtual support sessions. These are being delivered by Dez Wilson (Service Integration Officer for Kooth), for **Parents** in response to the current COVID-19 outbreak.
- These sessions are accessible via **Zoom** (a remote virtual conferencing service platform). To be able to join a virtual session by mobile phone, the free Zoom app must be downloaded from the app store. If you are using a laptop to access a meeting, then after clicking on the meeting link (provided to you by Dez), you will be prompted to download the Zoom plugin. Please follow the instructions on your screen to download the plugin, which is very safe and secure. This will then take you straight to the meeting room.

Scheduled meetings for parents

These meetings are specifically intended for parents of children and young people aged 10-25 in **Oldham**. This is an opportunity to find out about the Kooth service and the offer of support for their children at this difficult time.

- 1 **Wednesday 8th April 2020** - 4:00pm - 5:00pm
- 2 **Tuesday 14th April 2020** - 3:00pm - 4:00pm
- 3 **Tuesday 21st April 2020** - 3:00pm - 4:00pm

If anyone is interested in joining one of these live virtual meetings, or has any questions please contact Dez Wilson at dwilson@xenzone.com