



## DIGGLE STARS

Well done and thank you to all the children and parents who have managed so well working from home, and to all the staff who have supported the children both in school and through home learning.

**YOU ARE ALL STARS !!!**



## **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.**



## HEADTEACHER'S COMMENTS



There is an article further down the newsletter explaining about the opportunity for parents to access the lateral flow kits at home that staff use in school. The information I have put below comes straight from the Government.

Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles.

Tests are fast, easy and completely free. There are [different ways for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:](#)

- through your employer, if they offer testing to employees
- by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests
- by ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most

If you have any queries about the tests, and you live in England, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.

Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test.

Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mon 8<sup>th</sup> March – school reopens to all pupils

Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> April – school closes for Easter

Mon 19<sup>th</sup> April – school reopens for summer term

Parents evening will now be held in the first half of the summer term



## 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

In Class R this week, we have continued with our topic of Transport and have been investigating cars. The children were encouraged to have a look under the bonnet of a real car, linked to our story 'Mr Gumpy's Motor Car' by John Burningham. The children also had lots of stories for World Book Day and it was great to see some unusual reading dens and costumes. Our new member of staff, Miss Evans, introduced herself with a lovely story about how we are all special to celebrate the day. In Maths, the children have been investigating and measuring distance and in Phonics we have learnt all about the trigraphs; 'air' & 'igh'. Why not ask your child what a trigraph is? See you all on Monday, Class R!

## Class 1

This week in English we have continued to read the story of Dogger. We have completed some work about our own favourite toys using the word because to explain why we like them. We have also practised using and to join ideas in a sentence to help us write a description of Dogger to use in the Lost poster that we wrote for him. In Maths we have been learning about money. In particular about adding coins to make a given total and finding change when we don't have the exact amount to pay. In Theme we learnt about Schools in Past. We looked at three pieces of evidence and became history detectives to find out how schools had changed. In Science we learnt the difference between an object and the material it is made from. We sorted objects and materials in a Venn diagram. We also had the last of our online lessons this week and we are very much looking forward to coming back to school on Monday!

## Class 2

This week we have been listening to stories and completing activities to celebrate World Book Day. We enjoyed reading books such as 'The Dragon Machine', 'Owl Babies' and 'Oh no George'. We watched the stories being told in sign language too. We completed the 'Share a story Reading Stars' game to show all the exciting ways stories can be shared (and not just at bedtime) and designed bookmarks to be kept in our favourite book. In maths we have learned about the commutative law of addition and subtraction. This means that you can add two numbers together in any order and you will always get the same answer, but this does not work for subtraction. We also recapped number bonds to 10 and 20 and half of a shape. Our spelling rule this week has focused on adding the suffixes to a root word. We have continued our Science mini-theme about keeping healthy by keeping a food journal of our meals, drinks and snacks each day.



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

## Class 3

This week, Class 3 have been learning about the United Kingdom, looking at different features and sorting them in countries before deciding whether they were physical or human features. They designed a menu for a Full English breakfast and researched the artist LS Lowry, who painted Urban Landscapes around the Manchester area, before producing their own picture inspired by his work. In maths, we have been working on fractions. We looked at unit and non-unit fractions before moving on to look at equivalent fractions. In our work on The BFG, we used expanded noun phrases to describe 'Dream Country' and what Sophie would see whilst peeping out from the BFG's pocket. We also produced posters to try and sell bottles of Frobscottle to the people of England. There were some very attractive and persuasive deals! I am looking forward to having all the children back together next week, catching up with them before moving on with our learning together. The classroom is ready and we have displays up showing some of the work we have done this term during our Europe theme.

## Class 4

We have wrapped up our Europe theme this week by choosing our own country to research. We learnt about the geography, art, cuisine, and other facts about a variety of countries and presented our work in PowerPoints and posters. In maths we have been working on symmetry. We have continued with The Witches in English for the first three days and celebrated World Book Day on Thursday by creating a book sleeve of our favourite story. Our unit on People Of Faith in RE continued with a look at the Dalai Lama too. Class 4 have worked immensely hard over the last few months and we are all really looking forward to being back next Monday.



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

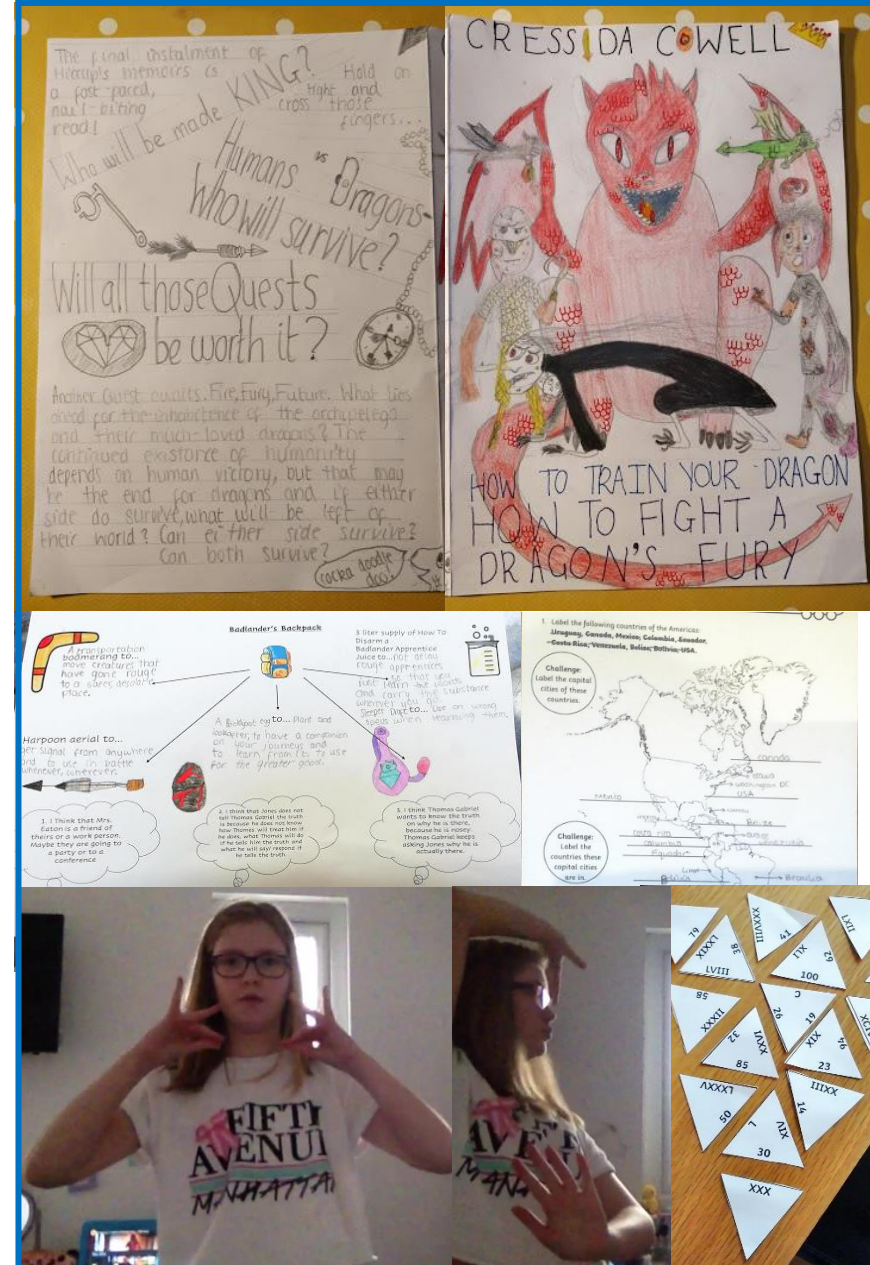
## Class 5

This week Class 5 have thought carefully about what items a Badlander might need to carry with them, that might be useful. If they get caught by surprise by an unusual creature. They have created persuasive posters for these items, thinking carefully about the persuasive language they could use to attract people into buying their items. In Maths, the children have been solving problems using negative numbers and have started to recap Roman Numerals. In Theme, they have compared different countries and states in the Americas.

## Class 6

This week in maths, we have continued our work on coordinates in 4 quadrants. We have been translating shapes from one section of the grid to another. We have also started to look at and work on reflecting shapes across a mirror line. In English this week, we have used our reading skills to answer questions about our class book, 'The Girl of Ink and Stars'. In science, we have been investigating thermal conductors and insulators. We had to test which material would be the best to line a lunch bag in order to keep our lunch cool. For this, we had to decide which materials to test as well as think about keeping it a fair test. In SMSC, we are beginning to look at cultures from around the world and what they have brought to England. The first culture we looked at was India. We had to do some research and then either learn a Bollywood dance or create our own Henna design.

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



## Message from the Board of Governors

Dear Parent / Carer

As we move towards a form of normal school life I want to acknowledge, on behalf of all the Governors, the efforts made by staff and yourselves during this difficult time.

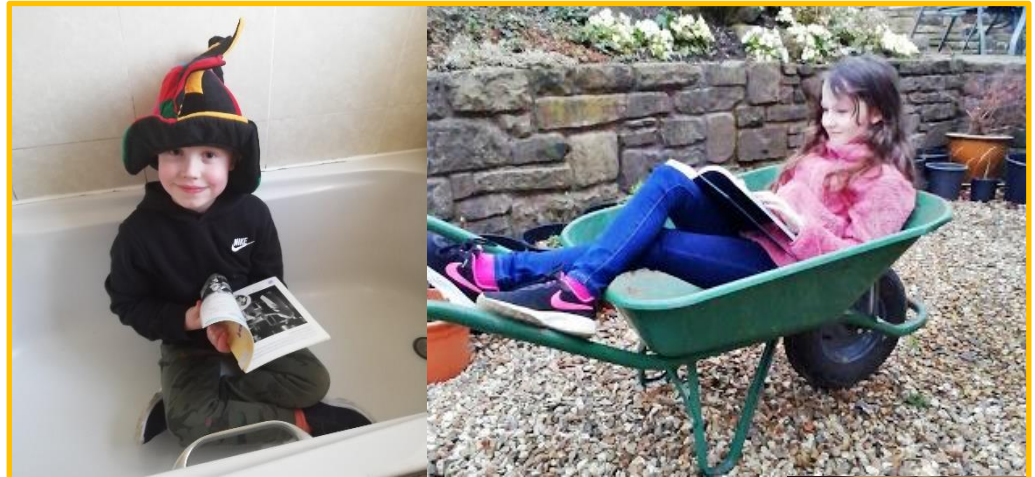
I know from my own experience that home schooling is not easy and that the most important things of friendship and social interaction are very much missed by the children.

I look forward to our school being full of happy children, learning and playing again and that we can all move forward.

Let us hope that this really is the beginning of the end of lockdown.

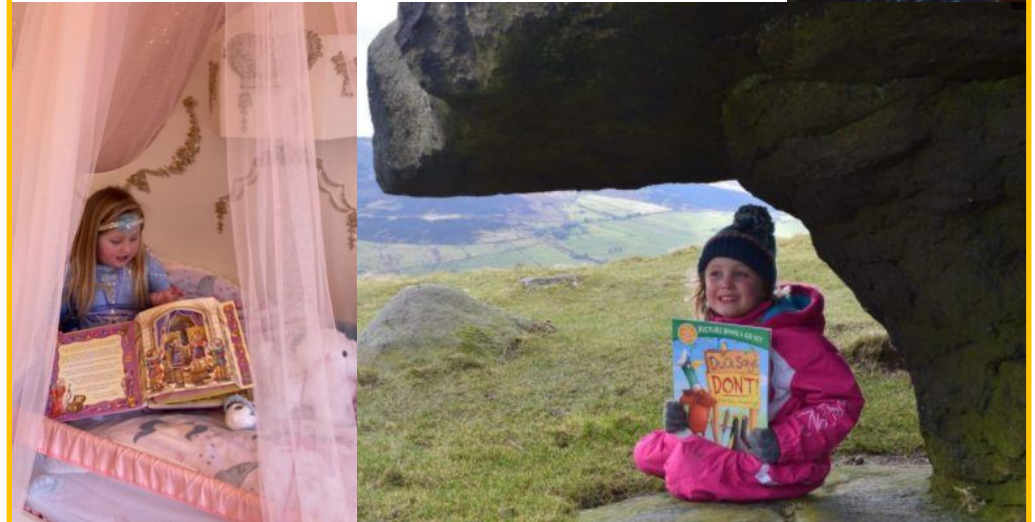
Best wishes for the future

Mike Rea  
Chair of Governors



Lots of children have already found unusual places to read their favourite books!

Have you taken your photo yet?  
Have fun taking a photo of reading in an unusual place and send a photo to your class teacher.



## Collective Wisdom

This is the last Collective Wisdom for now. We do hope you have found some of the items shared useful.

Thankyou to everyone who contributed.

We are all getting a little weary of the same 4 walls, and the same people and have lost a little perspective and wonder at the world. Here are 50 awe-inspiring photos that puts humanity and nature on the same scale. Get a cuppa and spend some time going "Oh wow!!

<https://constative.com/facts-file/perspective/>

**See a satellite at night** ... this website shows you when satellites and the International Space Station are flying overhead. If it is a clear night, you'll now be able to identify those moving dots in the night sky!!

<https://james.darpinian.com/satellites/>

Do you ever need to write symbols or characters in your work? Check out this website for the shortcuts.

<https://www.alt-codes.net/>

While many are looking forward to the children going back to school and being able to work from home in peace and quiet, that peace and quiet may come as a shock and the silence will be deafening for some. Have a look back through some of the past "collective wisdom's" for podcast recommendations / online background sound services to break that silence now and again.

## Parents offered twice weekly rapid Covid tests

Those living in the same household / in the same support bubble as a child attending school or college are able to take twice weekly lateral flow rapid Covid tests from next week.

This can either be obtained at a local test center (Uppermill Civic Hall in Saddleworth) or by free ordering home test kits.

**We strongly encourage all our families to do this** to help break the chain of infection and keep everyone safe.

Testing will continue to be a vital part of the national response to coronavirus. As restrictions are eased, starting with the return of schools and moving towards more social mixing at the end of March, it is critical that every Covid case is found as quickly as possible and isolation rules are followed. Although cases are declining, everyone needs to continue play their part to keep the virus under control in order for us to keep schools open.

*"With about a third of individuals with coronavirus showing no symptoms and potentially spreading it without knowing, targeted, regular testing will mean more positive cases within households are found and prevented from entering schools and colleges, helping to keep educational settings safe."*

See <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-households-with-children-of-school-aged-to-get-rapid-covid-19-tests-per-person-per-week> for full details.

Home test kits can be ordered here: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Please also see the following video from Oldham Youth Council

<https://youtu.be/6NLqkCUR8ok>

All of these links can also be found in the Covid-19 section of the school website - [www.diggleschool.co.uk](http://www.diggleschool.co.uk)



Year 1 have been very busy this week making their own shop.

## 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.

This is very important going forward as we may need to message parents urgently to close class bubbles at short notice in the event of a positive covid test within school.

### School Dinners Price increase

Oldham council will increase the cost of school meals by 15p from £2.40 to **£2.55** from **1st April 2021**. The

Council are also considering a further incremental 5p increases 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.

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.



## Holiday Club



L & A Holiday Club are taking bookings for the Easter Holidays. The Holiday Club will operate from Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April, 8.45am-4pm, £23/day

Please email [landaholidayclub@gmail.com](mailto:landaholidayclub@gmail.com) for full details and to book your child's place. Please note places are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

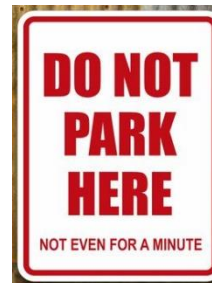
[www.facebook.com/Diggleholidayclub/](http://www.facebook.com/Diggleholidayclub/)

## Parking outside school

When bringing your child to school in a vehicle, **please do not park on the zig zag lines between 8am and 5pm, and please do not park on the double yellow lines.**

Given the reduction in traffic volume using the staggered start and finish, there is plenty of room on Sam Road, Huddersfield Road and the canal carpark for everyone who needs it.

**No-one should need to park in the entrance to Heather Way or use this entrance to turn around.**





## 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 or draw pictures of what is on their mind 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 to!



**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.



If your child feels upset because they have "missed out" on things that are important to them as a result of lockdown, see "Six ways to help children cope with lockdown loss" - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/znxyvk7>