

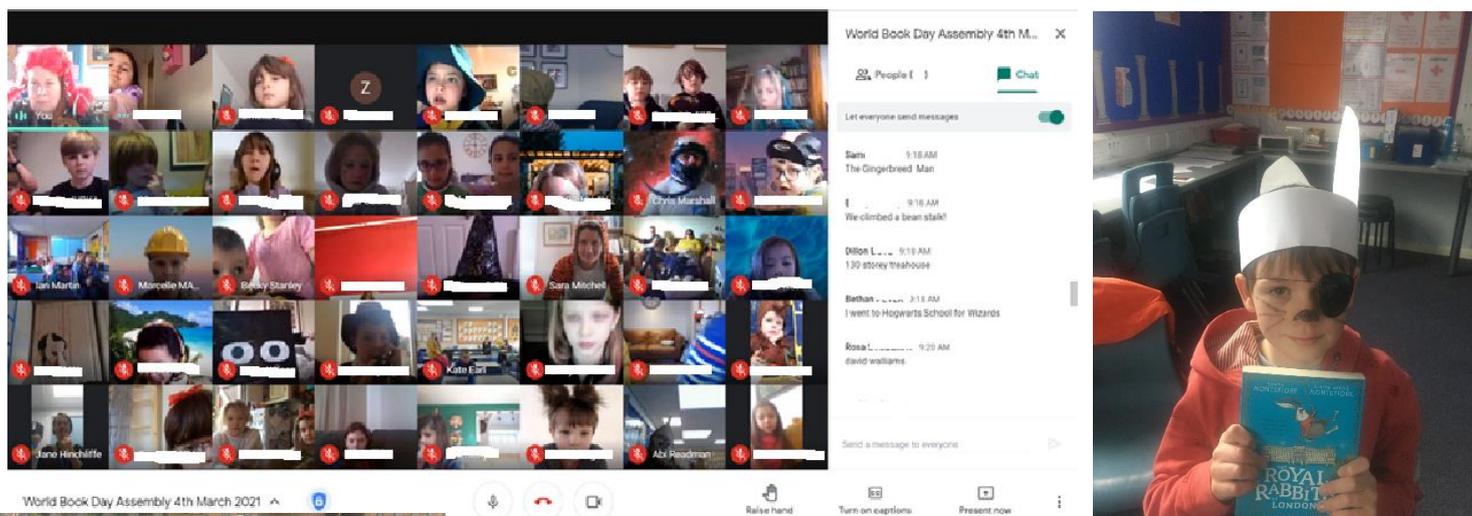


SHIRE OAK

C of E (VC) Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers

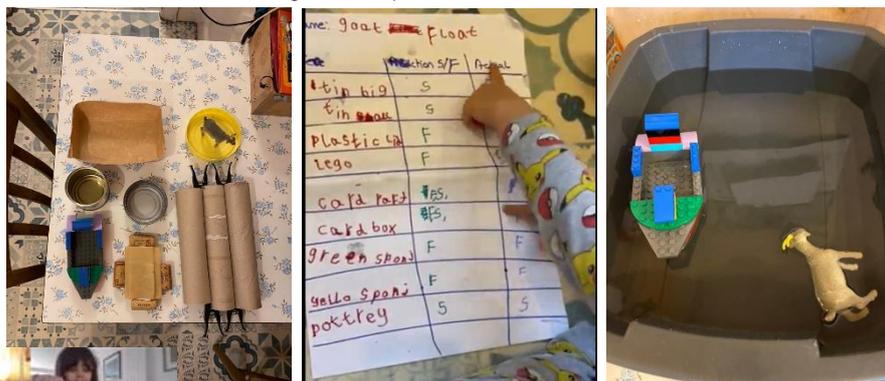
Thank you for all your help in letting the children celebrate **World Book Day** yesterday, whether at home or at school. It was so fun to see all the costumes, props and book displays in our Google Meet assembly, as well as the work the children completed throughout the day linked to reading. For some children, independent reading really takes off in periods of home learning. Some children, however, turn away from it when out of their school routines so it will be great to have all children back into good reading habits from next week or building on the love of reading they have been developing at home over the last few weeks. There were so many good book recommendations to follow up that I hope your child has good ideas for what they would like to read next. We will be re-opening the school library over the next few weeks, which I am very pleased about. Reception Class have not yet been visiting the library as they normally would, but have had additional books in their classroom. We hope to extend this in the not-too-distant future.



Last week I outlined our **priorities for helping the children mentally, physically** (and therefore, **academically**) when they return to school. We know it will help the children to be back in routine, so please help by talking children through the things they can expect when they return. As we said, we will be trying to be outside as much as possible. This will mean using the field, particularly at lunchtime, to give every bubble a decent area to play in. To help us be able to do this even when it has been wet, it would really help us if children in **Year 5 and Year 6 could bring outside shoes** with them that they can change into for playing on the (muddy) grass. This can be wellies or old shoes that could be left outdoors if necessary, to come in and change into clean, indoor shoes before walking on the carpets. We will be asking children to **come to school in PE kit on their PE days** to extend the range of physical activities that they can take part in. On those days a school jumper or cardigan should be worn on top or a PE t-shirt or polo shirt. Unless children will be comfortable (and warm enough!) in shorts all day, they should wear tracksuit bottoms over, or leggings under, their shorts. Teachers will let you know when children have PE, so come in normal uniform on Monday, unless otherwise advised. We are currently making plans to ensure that our children **learn to swim** and continue to improve their swimming skills. We are reasonably confident that Year 2 will be able to do their intensive swimming course, as planned, after Easter. We also hope that Year 3 will be able to start weekly swimming lessons then too. (We will keep a close eye on their progress to try to ensure all children reach the expected standard before they finish swimming lessons. This may mean continuing in Year 4 or planning in additional sessions, if the budget allows for it.) Due to the current pool restrictions we will have to travel to the pool 'beach-ready' with swimming costumes underneath easy to wear clothes. If families are buying new

swimwear it may be sensible to purchase tankinis rather than one-piece swimsuits to help with trips to the toilet before walking to the bus! Teachers will give more information, but it may be that a robe, onesie or tracksuit is the easiest thing to pull on for the return journey to school. (We will be changing back into uniform at school.) We continue to ventilate classrooms with doors and windows open throughout the day, so please make sure that children have **coats** with them so that they can stay warm even when sat still at times. (One class were eating lunch outside each day in the quadrangle, sheltered by a large gazebo. Unfortunately the winter winds have destroyed that, so we are looking at alternatives... if anyone happens to have access to a heavyweight gala tent we could long term loan – please let us know!)

Although the children are emerging from lockdown, it is not the case that society at large is. We are very sympathetic to parents and carers who have also been starved of society and company recently but ask that you please remember that we are **still under national restrictions** and that only people within households (or bubbles) do not have to distance. In order to help everyone feel comfortable, please do not congregate in the playground at this time. Of course, we will all be friendly, say hello, pass on relevant messages to each other, talk to staff about the children, etc. but even if the children are in bubbles together we cannot allow parents to sit/stand together whilst the children play after school. As restrictions ease, this can be reflected in our grounds too, but for now we must prioritise getting the maximum number of children back into school and everyone feeling confident with that arrangement. (Please see the letter I have been asked to pass on from the council.) It goes without saying that nobody can come to the school grounds with **symptoms of, or who has tested positive for, Covid-19**. If this applies to anyone in the household, children may not attend school until the isolation period is finished. Please ring the school office to keep us up to date and let us know if you need any help when isolating.



As we come to the end of this period of home learning I continue to be impressed by the resilience and adaptability of our pupils and thankful to our parents and carers who have supported them to access the work set over the last few weeks. ↑**These experiments in Y1** to find out the best way of getting the Billy Goats Gruff across the river were both scientific and entertaining! I also loved seeing the creations that children have been building in our **online Lego Club**.



Well done everyone – this has been a great combined effort between home and school over several weeks! Have a good weekend and I very much look forward to seeing our children back in school on Monday!

Jane Astrid Devane

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A **SuperStars certificate** for all the **parents, carers, grandparents and siblings** who have been facilitating home learning recently!
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