

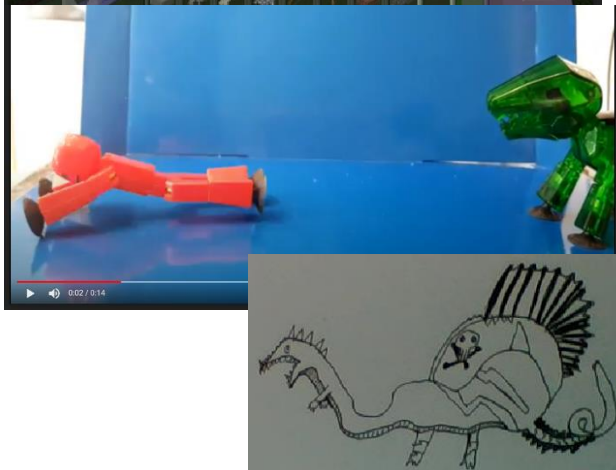
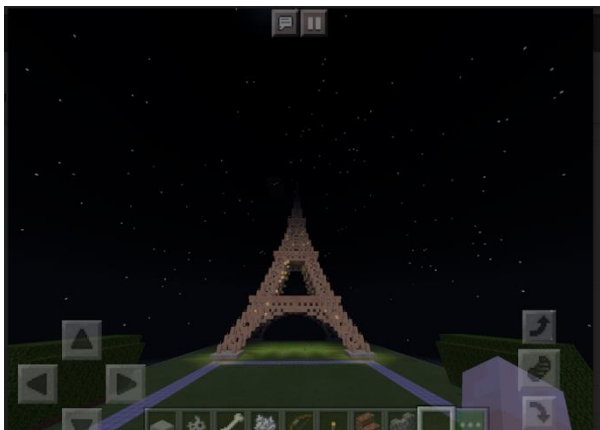
Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you managed to have a good Easter and enjoy the lovely sunshine. Although 'School Club' was open for keyworkers over the two week break, we did manage to close for the bank holiday weekend to spend time with families. This week is the start of the summer term and a lot of families have found it good to get back into a routine with the children's home learning again. For us the main aim is to keep the children feeling **safe**, feeling **connected** to their class and community and to keep their **brains** active. Children in Year 2 to Year 6 can now do the 'register' online each day to check in with their class staff and so that we know they are well. We don't expect children to then stay online for the rest of the day but to go and do the tasks that have been set, the ones that you think of and ones that they are interested in doing themselves. This week the **BBC launched daily programmes** for Years 1 to 6 which can be accessed using the red button on the TV (as well as online) which may be helpful for families where wifi, data and access to devices is tricky.



We had our first **virtual staff meetings** this week. As well as being rather entertaining, it was good to hear what is happening in the different classes:

- **Reception Class:** Log on to Tapestry to watch stories and other inputs by Miss Coulter, with ideas for tasks. You can then share what your child has been doing by also loading photos, comments, etc. onto Tapestry. I see these too.
- **Year One:** Send very regular emails to the parents from the class account which has ideas for tasks as well as videos of the teachers reading stories, etc. Parents can send children's work and projects back to this address and I see these as well.
- **Year Two to Year Six:** All children have a Google Classroom login. They can login to do the register and then visit their classrooms to find ideas for tasks that the teachers have set them. Ms Virgin sets art tasks and I have a room there which doubles as my office so that children and teachers can come and show me good work there. **Any child who hasn't yet 'joined' my classroom can use the code 7ptisb7.**



"What's that Jodie?" Ella excitedly exclaimed. She was gazing in wonder at the small object in the palm of my hand. "A brooch, I think," I answered, wondering why I felt so uneasy. After all, it was only a brooch. Right?

Fog. A bitter chill. I stumbled through the gloom, a feeling of despair seeping into my bones... THUMP. I had been having more and more odd dreams just like that. The fog, cold and feeling of despair. I only had one question. What did it mean?

The wind was bearing down on us. My hair was flying all over the place - why we had to keep on trekking in that weather I still don't know. Although it was windy, it was also scorching and uncomfortable. There was sand everywhere - my eyes and bag were just a couple of the victims. We had set off from the city in the bright sun, a gentle breeze blowing through our hair. However, the gentle breeze had become a harsh wind and the city was soon out of sight. Clouds had covered the sun so the sky turned grey



One thing that came up at staff meeting is the difficulty in finding enough **reading books**. We have now made reading books available in the foyer that are suitable for Reception to Year 2 mostly. We know that children may now be on different book bands, etc. so take what looks appropriate and give it a try – if the children are reading more than usual they may be coming on in leaps and bounds. There is also a box for returning books to us so that we can leave them for a few days before putting them back in circulation. (We will need books returning regularly if this is going to work!) For stronger Year 2 readers to Year 6 there is already a box of books that are in a pack with an activity sheet to accompany the book. These are being added to regularly. Again, please return read books to the box in the foyer, and if your child would like that work marked, please bring it in (named!) when you return the book. Although it may be strange, some children have found it quite reassuring to be able to visit school this way on their daily exercise walk as they are likely to see a (socially distanced) familiar face or two and enjoy the familiarity.

For **musical instrument lessons, Drawing and Talking** and some **1:1 learning** for children with specific needs, there are lessons being set up via Google Meet, etc. Please help us to keep these safe by always being present when children log on and making sure they are filming in a public part of the home.

This week we have held our first virtual **Superstars Assembly** and it was good to hear about some of the way children have been getting to grips with home learning and sharing that with their teachers. It is always good to sing together and celebrate the ways our children are trying to be kind, be safe and be their best. If you haven't seen it, please do follow this link – there may even be someone in your household receiving an award! <https://youtu.be/s4F3cIIlNqXQ>

For families who receive means-tested Free School Meals we are now distributing **weekly hampers**. These do not, unfortunately, come from Fortnums and Masons, but have bread, yoghurts, cheese, butter, snacks, other food items and sanitary towels in them. They can be collected on Wednesdays from the school foyer, but do let us know if you are isolating or otherwise finding it hard to collect them. Families can be added temporarily to the list for this support if they are struggling – please do get in touch with us if that is the case. There is also a box in the foyer where we share food that has been donated to us. Please feel free to take food if you need it, or leave food there if you can. Jane Hinchliffe is still working supporting our families, so do contact her if you need some help. (You can text the number at the top of this newsletter to ask for her to ring you back.)



When Mrs Vollans isn't busy sorting out the end of year finances, she is busy knitting. Instead of her usual creations, she is currently knitting **mask adaptors** to stop medical face masks from digging in and making sores behind the ear. If you, or someone you know, needs these for frontline work please do get in touch with her on [jackiev@shireoak.leeds.sch.uk](mailto:jackiev@shireoak.leeds.sch.uk)

**Thank you** for the lovely feedback we have been getting about the ways we are staying in touch with your children. Mrs Farnhill's video from some of the staff at home was popular (it is on our website [www.shireoak.org](http://www.shireoak.org) as well as our Twitter and FOSOPS Facebook page if you haven't seen it.) We know it is very hard juggling work, childcare, learning, exercise, money worries and everything else at the moment. Please do get in touch if we can help. Stay safe.

Jane Astrid Devane

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The government advice on learning and keeping safe at home is here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-primary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

Leeds City Council  
**COVID-19**  
Leeds City Council Community Care

Leeds City Council have launched a helpline.

Anyone in need can call:  
**0113 378 1877**

and they will be matched with a local volunteer who can help.

If you need assistance, or know someone else who does, please call the helpline.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact  
<https://doinggoodleeds.org.uk/covid-19-care-volunteering.html>  
or call  
**0113 297 7920**

InterACT Church & Community Partnership  
HOLY TRINITY MEANWOOD  
Voluntary Action Leeds Supporting Communities Together

