



Royal Russell Junior School



Newsletter

Spring Term

5th February 2021

Dear Parents and Friends,

One of the most significant joys of being around children is that they are much more open to self-expression than many grown-ups. Over the course of this week, we have learned much from our children about the bravery of self-expression, how we can capture that confidence to express ourselves in exciting ways and how mental health is a topic that is at the heart of what we talk to children about. I hope that you enjoy sharing some of these moments that are included in this week's newsletter. I would like to thank the whole community for celebrating Children's Mental Health Week and revisiting that most important of human factors, self-expression.

Online Learning Surveys

We remain grateful for all of the support and feedback that we have received from you about the online learning that has happened over the course of this half term. We are always keen to hear about your experiences and those of our pupils. If your child is in Reception or Years 1-6, please follow this [link](#) if you would like to share your feedback on how online learning is working for your family. A separate survey will be shared with our pupils from Year 3 – 6 via Firefly.

Reports and Parent Consultation Evenings

Separately to this newsletter, Mrs Bannon has shared details of both the upcoming reports and Parent Consultation Evenings.

The Consultation Evenings will be held remotely and there are details of how to book your appointments on either one of the available days. We look forward to seeing you, remotely, at these events.

Best wishes for a safe and relaxing weekend.

John Evans
Headmaster, Junior School

Safeguarding Corner

Technology and screens are embedded into our daily lives, whether it be relaxing in front of the television after a busy day, speaking to family and friends via FaceTime or gaming via a console.

Transitioning to online learning has added another element of screen time into our daily lives and pupils across the country are now accessing learning online. It has become more difficult to balance our children's screen time as our social contact is reduced during the current restrictions.

The debate about the possible effects of screen time continues with conflicting advice being produced in a number of different reports. What is clear, is that it is important to find a balance which enables our pupils to keep learning, to stay in touch with their friends and to relax with screens whilst also having a proportion of time away from a screen.

The balance will be different for each Royal Russell family, taking into account different home circumstances as well as the age of our children. Internet Matters have devised some top tips to help manage screen time during lockdown:

1. Set a good example with your own screen time as children learn so much from what they see around them. It is important for our children to see adults enjoying other activities such as reading a book or going out for a run.
2. Talk to your children about the time they spend online and what they are doing whilst on their device. It is especially important to talk to your children about staying safe online.
3. Set clear expectations about screen time – how much and at what time can your children use a screen.
4. Ensure children participate in screen-free activities every day. Screen free activities could include a family walk with the dog, playing a board game, helping with household jobs, arts and craft, baking.

You will find 50 screen-free activities you can try on the next two pages.

I hope you enjoy.

Best wishes,
Sarah Pain
Deputy Head, Pastoral

Non-screen activities you can do at home

Pobble

25
ideas!

What can you do when there's no school and you're stuck at home? Here are 25 fun ideas to choose from.



1 How many different words can you make from the letters in this sentence, below? Grab a pencil and paper and write a list!

'Learning from home is fun'

2 Thank a community hero. Think of someone that helps you in some way and write a short letter to thank them.

Thanks!

3 Get building! You could build a Lego model, a tower of playing cards or something else!



4 Can you create your own secret code? You could use letters, numbers, pictures or something else! Can you get someone else to try and crack it?

5 Start a nature diary. Look out of the window each day and keep note of what you see. Birds, flowers, changes in the weather, what else?

6 Hold a photo session. Use a camera or a mobile phone to take some snaps. What will you photograph? Your pets or toys perhaps?

7 Build a reading den. Find somewhere cosy, snuggle up and read your favourite book!



8 Use an old sock to create a puppet. Can you put on a puppet show for someone?



9 Make a list of all the electrical items in each room of your home. Can you come up with any ideas to use less electricity?

10 Design and make a homemade board game and play it with your family.



11 Do something kind for someone. Can you pay them a compliment, make them something or help them with a task?



12 Can you create a story bag? Find a bag and collect items to go in it that relate to a well known story. If you can't find an item, you could draw a picture to include.

13 List making! Write a list of things that make you happy, things you're grateful for or things you are good at.



14 Design and make an obstacle course at home or in the garden. How fast can you complete it?



15 Can you invent something new? Perhaps a gadget or something to help people? Draw a picture or write a description.



16 Keep moving! Make up a dance routine to your favourite song.



17 Write a play script. Can you act it out to other people?



18 Read out loud to someone. Remember to read with expression.



19 Write a song or rap about your favourite subject.



20 Get sketching! Find a photograph or picture of a person, place or object and sketch it.



21 Junk modelling! Collect and recycle materials such as yoghurt pots, toilet rolls and boxes and see what you can create with them.

22 Draw a map of your local area and highlight interesting landmarks.



23 Write a postcard to your teacher. Can you tell them what you like most about their class?

24 Draw a view. Look out of your window and draw what you see.



25 Get reading! What would you most like to learn about? Can you find out more about it in books? Can you find a new hobby?

More

Non-screen activities you can do at home

Pobble

25
more
ideas!

What can you do when there's no school and you're stuck at home? Here are 25 fun ideas to choose from.

1 Get doodling!
Grab some paper and pens and doodle anything you like! Animals, aliens or something else.



2 Create your own animal.
Could you combine two of your favourites? What will you call it?



3 Design and draw a new musical instrument.
How would you play it and what will it sound like?



4 Make up your own 5 minute exercise routine.
What will you include?



5 Can you make up your own jokes?
Tell them to someone to make them laugh!



6 Make some jewellery.
Use anything you can find around the house. Strips of wrapping paper or rolled up magazines make great beads!

7 Paper aeroplane challenge!
Make a paper aeroplane and see how far you can fly it! Can you make a target and try to aim for it?

8 Fingerprint art!
Use only your fingertips and paint to create a picture.



9 Make a bookmark to use when you're reading.



10 Make some wild art using sticks, leaves, flowers and anything else you can find outdoors.



11 Quick draw!
Set a 1 minute timer, draw a quick doodle and see if the other person can guess what it is before the time is up.

12 Write a silly sentence that includes all of these words... BANANA, CURTAIN, DOLPHIN, SNOW and BALLOON. Now think of your own words and write some more!

13 How many different words can you make from the letters in this sentence?

Keeping my brain busy is fun

14 Ping pong story telling! Write the opening sentence to a story, then someone else writes the next line. Then it's your turn again! Keep alternating until you have a full story.

15 Guess the character!
Think of a character from a book, write it down so no-one can see. Have others ask you questions to try and guess which character you chose.

16 Make a finger puppet!
Use a paper cone to make a body, then attach a paper head.



17 Describe the most disgusting meal EVER! What is in it? Spaghetti worms, toenails on toast or something else?



18 Create a comic strip about an animal who turns into a superhero. Which animal will you choose?



19 Create a family kindness jar. Every time someone does something kind, write it down and put it in the jar. When the jar is full you all deserve a special treat!

20 Find a fun place to sit and read a book. Under the bed? Up a tree? Where will you go?



21 How many words can you think of that rhyme with WRITE?



22 Write a recipe for 'Springtime'. What will you include? Flowers? Sunshine? What else?



23 Use your body to make the shape of a letter. How many more can you make? Can you make every letter in the alphabet?

24 Play alphabet bingo!
Can you spot an item in your home or garden that starts with the letter a,b,c and so on?

ABC

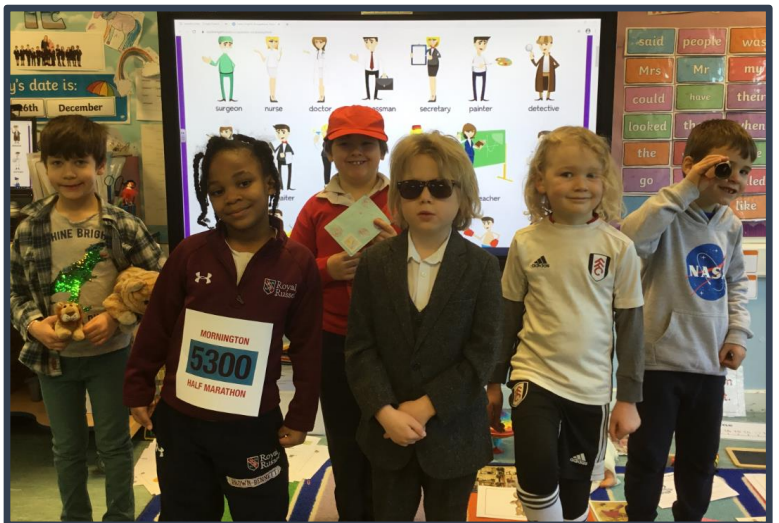
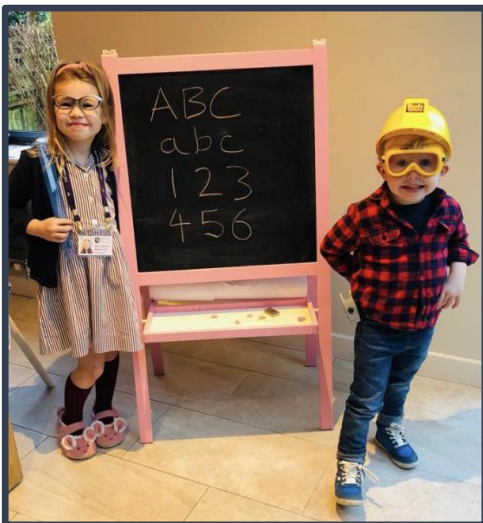
25 Start a diary. Write a short entry every day about what you do and how you feel. It will be good to look back on when you're older.

Parents and teachers – please share your success stories with us on social media:

HeyPobble Pobble Education TeamPobble

Dress to Express Day

Today, the children were invited to express themselves by dressing up as people that they aspire to be. Here are some of the photographs of the children enjoying another fun dress-up day.



Here's to
the future.

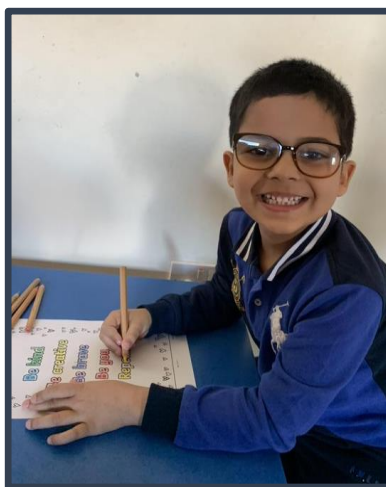


Express Yourself

For **Children's Mental Health Awareness Week**, the children were invited to do something to express themselves, something that makes them happy and to send in their photos or videos of whatever it was.

Here is a small sample of some of the variety of entries, some outdoor activities and some very creative pursuits at home.

Thank you for sharing everyone.



Musical Feast

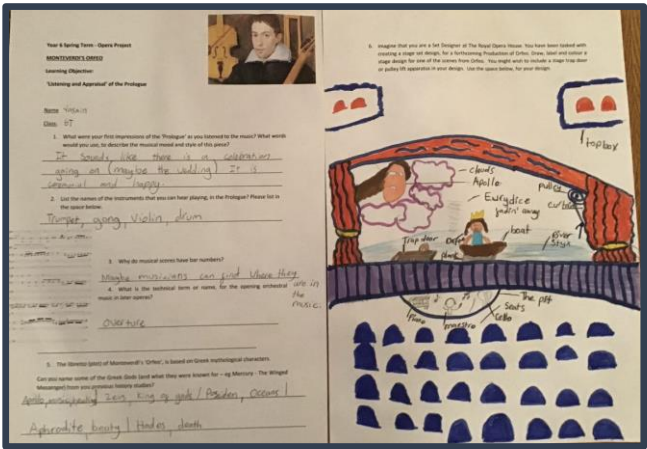
This week in Music, Year 6 have been learning about the dramatic *libretto* and music of **Monteverdi's 'Orfeo'**.



Sophie



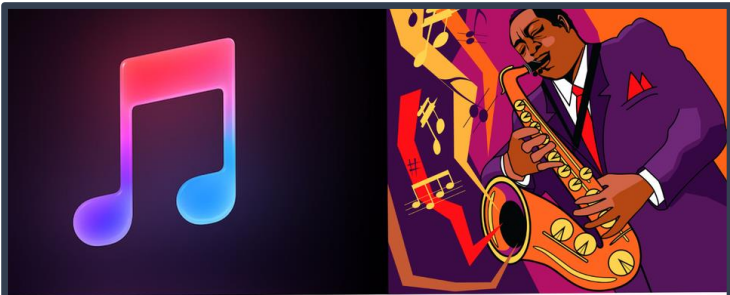
Yasmin



Sophie's Opera Stage Scene from *Orfeo*.

Yasmin listened to and completed an appraisal of *Orfeo*.

Year 5 combined their musical knowledge and artistic talents to create some really fabulous **Ragtime Jazz Posters**.



Jem



Sasha



Pieces to be played:

- Maple Tree Rag
- The Entertainer
- Original Rags
- Peachtree Rag
- Elle Syncopations
- Palm Leaf Rag
- The Strenuous Life
- The Easy Winners
- Weeping Willow
- Something Doing
- The Favourite
- The Cascades



SCOTT JOPLIN LIKE YOU HAVE NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE!

- Refreshments include:
- Tea \$2.50
 - Coffee \$2.50
 - Latté \$2
 - Cappuccino \$3
 - Popcorn Regular \$2 Large \$4
 - Confectioneries From \$2

\$100 a ticket!

8:00pm on July 5th, 2021



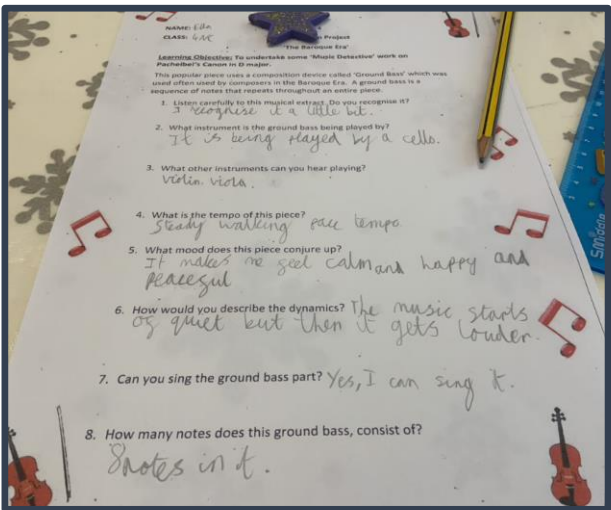
Rayaan created his own *Scott Joplin* Concert Poster.



Rayaan



Ella



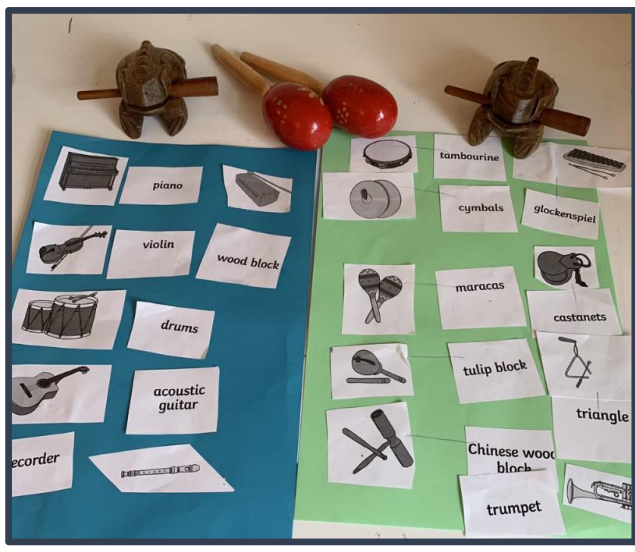
Pachelbel's wonderful and iconic '*Canon*' inspired our Year 4's Live Music Sessions.

We had great fun singing along to the repeated Ground Bass.

In Year 1, congratulations to Archie for his fabulous and imaginative home made musical instruments and to William for successfully completing the Music Quiz.



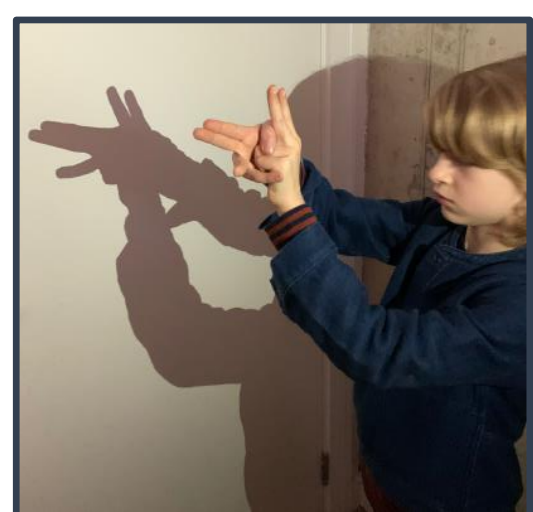
Archie



William

Science in the Shadows

In Science this week, Year 3 have been learning about shadows and how they form. One of our fun activities was to create shadow puppets.



Mayan



Mateo



Izzy and Nathan



Jasper



Molly



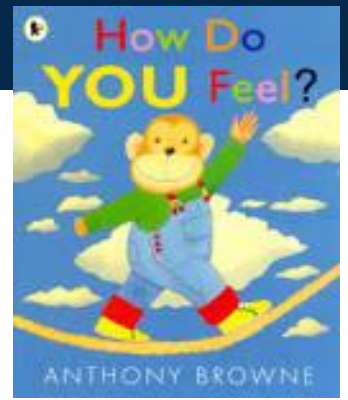
Lily

Nursery

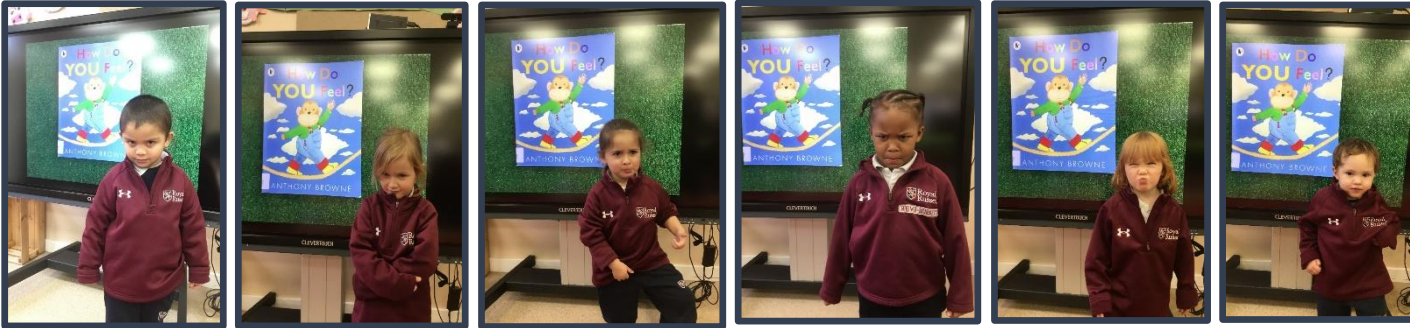
Nursery shared '*How Do You Feel?*' by Anthony Browne for Children's Mental Health Week.

The children were Inspired by the little chimpanzee.

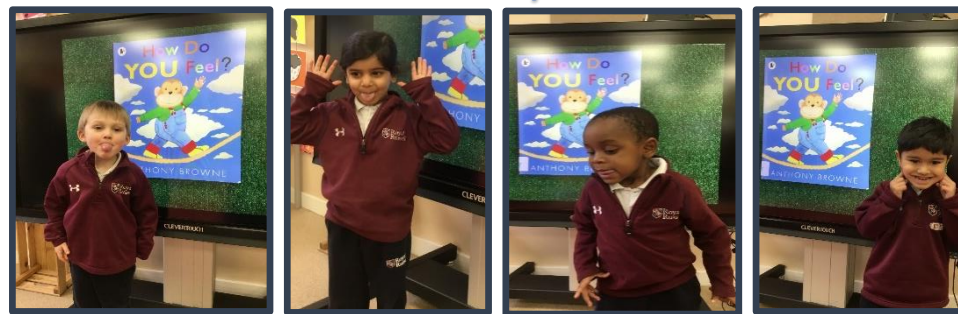
Sometimes we feel...



Angry



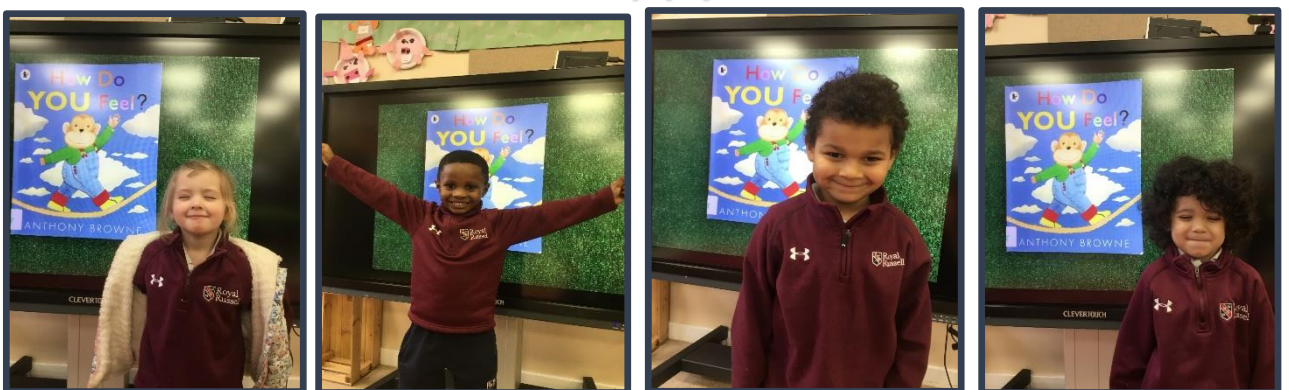
Silly



Hungry



Happy



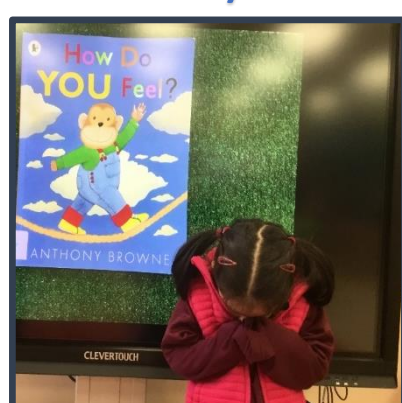
Confident



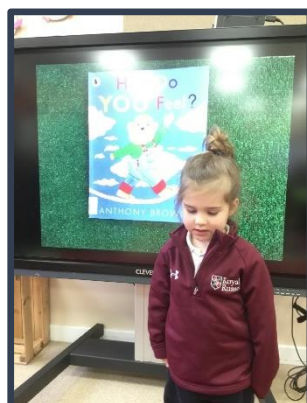
Sleepy



Shy



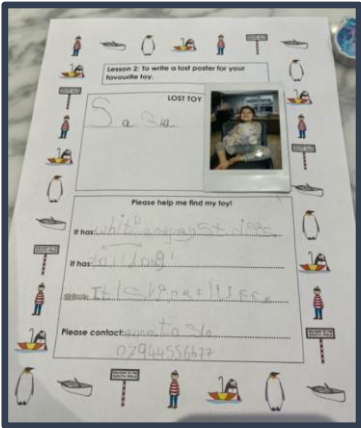
Curious



We learned how important it is to express yourself and how much fun that can be too.

Reception's Lost and Found

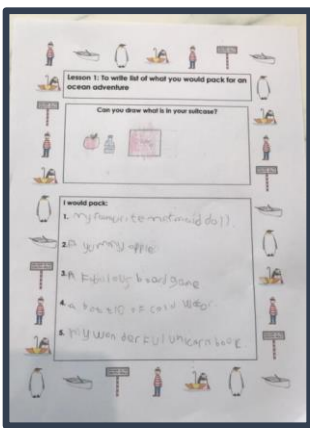
This week in Reception, the children have been reading **‘Lost and Found’** and made their own ‘Lost’ posters for their precious teddies at home.



Anastasia



Ayden



Joelle



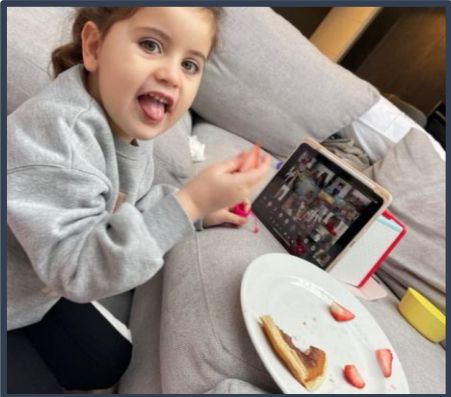
Vani

Mental Health Week

Breakfast Buddies was a real hit this week, with the children taking time to connect with each other over breakfast. On Well-Being Wednesday, they learnt that we need to be mindful to keep our **Emotional Cup** topped up; doing things we love such as exercising, connecting with others and being successful in our learning...



All great ways to feel positive.



Elliot

The children also enjoyed a **3D shape hunt** for everyday objects, using their mathematical knowledge to help to sort them.

Elsie



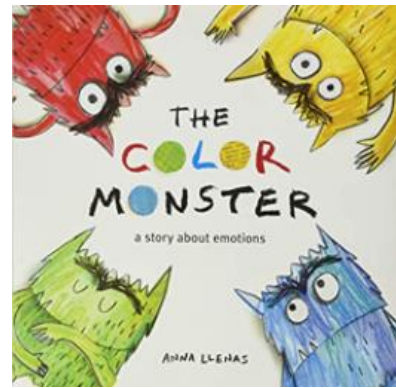
Expressing Yourself through Monsters

In Year 1 this week, during Well-Being Wednesday, the children listened to and watched the story, *'The Colour Monster'* by Anna Llenas.



Amelie

The story is about expressing emotions and the children had to colour their monster in the colour they were feeling at that moment in time.



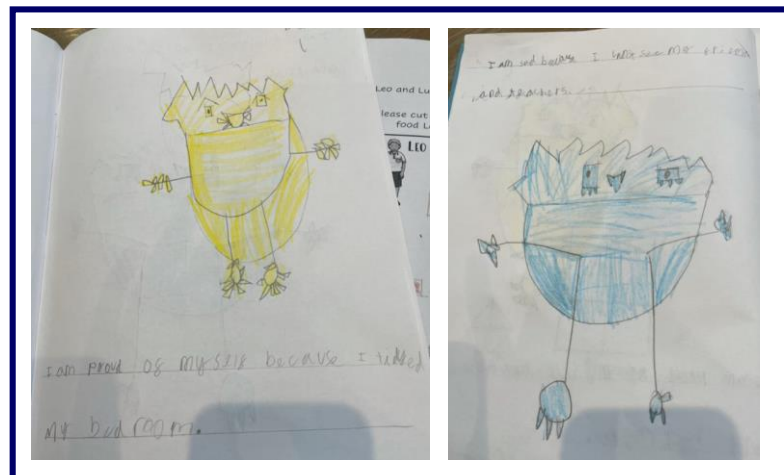
Florian



Castora



Zak



It was such a lovely activity and the children were thoroughly engaged in expressing their emotions.



Dhian

He is feeling happy, calm, love and a little surprised, that's why he has an open mouth!



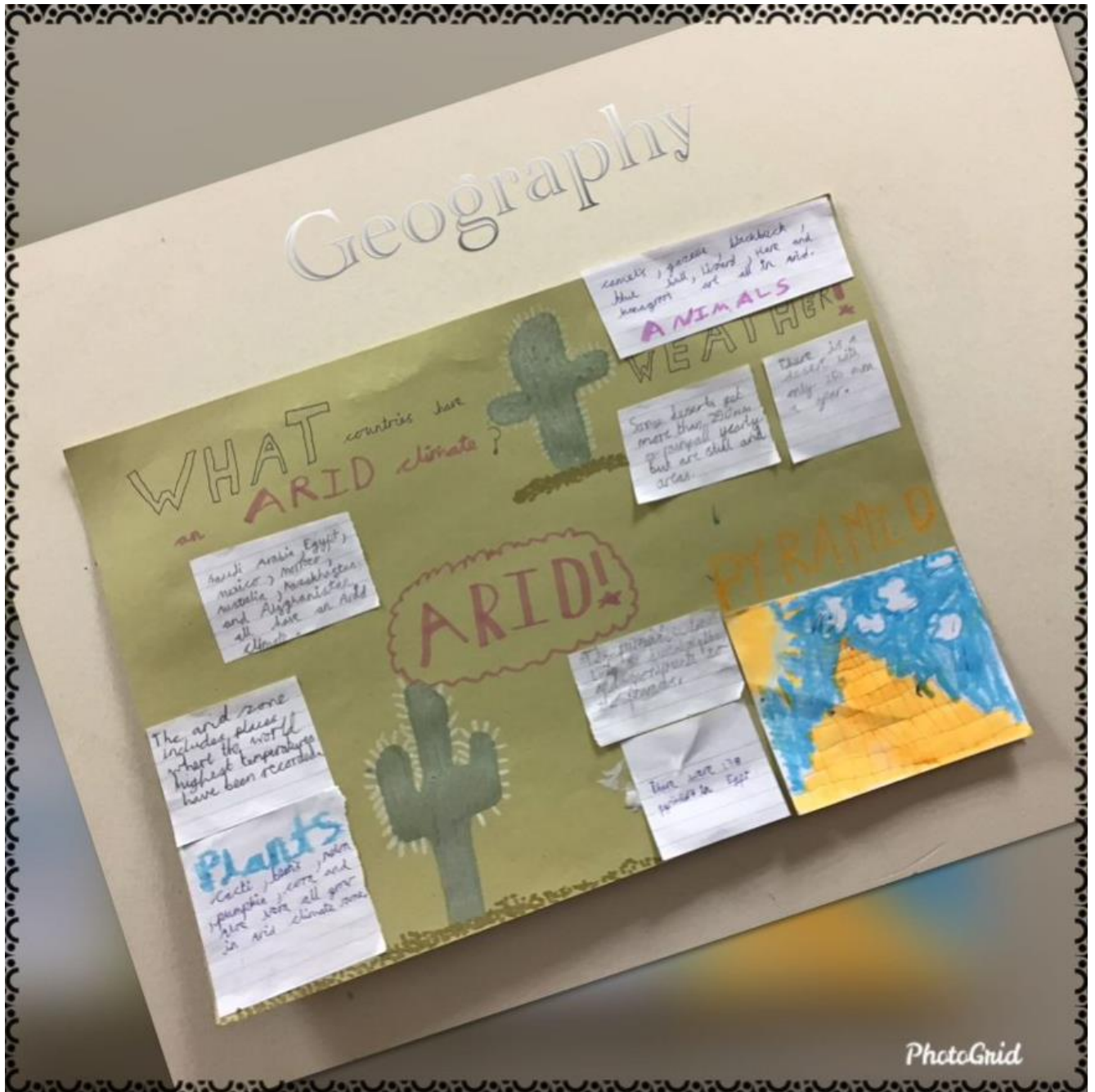
Jaiden



Year 3 Report on Climate Zone

Lily, Molly and Jasper worked collaboratively in their Geography lesson.

They wrote a non-chronological report on a climate zone which they researched during their last lesson.



Lily



Molly



Jasper

DoodleMaths Update


Top this week is 1E (Mrs Edward's class) at 69% on target.

Well done **1E**.



Compared to St Lucia...


In Geography, Year 4 have been studying St Lucia. The first week involved creating a map of the island. The children needed to add the roads, mountains, banana plantations, airports, capital city and hotels.



FRUIT

In St Lucia it is a hot climate so they grow fruit that need to be in the hot . Like Bread Fruit,Custard Apple, Guava, Plantain, Mango, Papaya and Coconuts.


In the UK it is very cold and we can't grow the same fruit as in St Lucia. However we can grow Strawberries, Apples, Pears, Blackcurrants, Blackberries, Raspberries, Cherries, Plums and Gooseberries



HOMES

St Lucia homes are made of wood because they don't have brick so they use the wood from the trees in their habitat. They have stilts if they are near the sea so if the tide comes in their houses will not flood.

In the UK the houses are made of brick and they are packed close together whilst in St Lucia they are more spaced out. There are different types of houses. There are flats in the UK however there are no flats in St Lucia. I think this is because there are less people in St Lucia. I think the houses in the UK use bricks because it is much colder.



Beaches

St Lucia beaches are much cleaner than our beaches and their beaches are very sandy. The beaches near St Lucia are home to lots of fish, and more beautiful than the UK.

The beaches in the UK are places for people to relax and in St Lucia are sandy but in the UK we have pebble beaches. Animals in the UK beaches like Crabs, Fish and many other.

LO: To add detail to a map of St Lucia

Design symbols for the items in the key box. Add the symbols to the key box and draw features on the map.

Key:

Capital City


Airport


Mountains

Plantations/crops

Roads

Hotels





Prisca

LO: To add detail to a map of St Lucia

Design symbols for the items in the key box. Add the symbols to the key box and draw features on the map.

Key:

Capital City

Airport


Mountains

Plantations/crops

Roads

Hotels





Ella

They then researched and wrote about the island's infrastructure.

This week the children have been comparing the houses, fruit and beaches of Saint Lucia and the UK. They have produced some excellent posters to describe the differences.

ST LUCIA

FRUITS

BREAD FRUIT

Mango

Guava

Plantain

Custard Apple

HOUSE

BEACHES

ENGLAND

FRUITS

Blueberries

Apples


Cherries

Blackberries

Blackcurrants

HOUSE

BEACHES




Max

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ST LUCIA AND THE UK




FRUIT

In St Lucia, the houses are made of wood and in the UK they are made of brick. They are not built on stilts as in the UK they are built on the ground.




HOUSES

In St Lucia, the houses are made of wood and in the UK they are made of brick. They are not built on stilts as in the UK they are built on the ground.



BEACHES

In St Lucia, the beaches are sandy and in the UK they are pebbly. They are not as clean as in the UK.



Henry

YEAR 4 POP-UP BOOK GALLERY

This week is **Storytelling Week** and in Year 4 the children have been making **Pop-Up Books** inspired by fables. We started our three week project by researching current books and designing character ideas, before moving on to using Pop-Up folds to bring our stories to life.

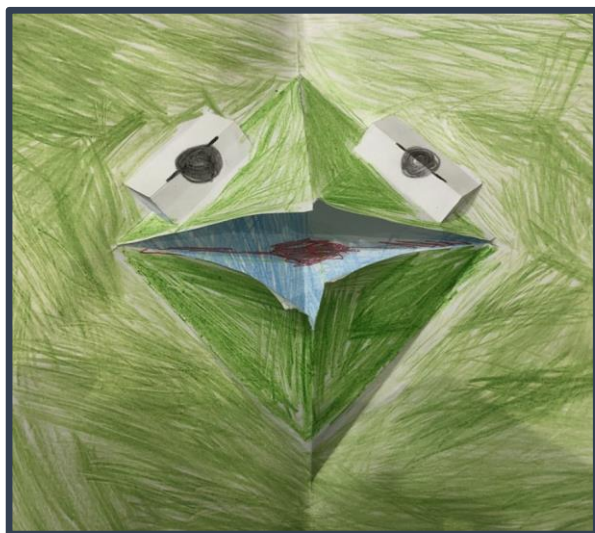



Emily



Arseniy


Sofyan



Vasily




Freya

You can view
more Pop-Up
Books in the
Gallery on Firefly.




Xavier

The creativity and humour shown by Year 4 has been wonderful.

Year 5

In English this week, the children in Year 5 have been sharing the books that they are reading at home. David Walliams is a very popular choice because of his wonderful comedy. The children have chosen to write either a book review, blurb or a letter to one of the characters from the book. We hope these reviews encourage you to try a new book.



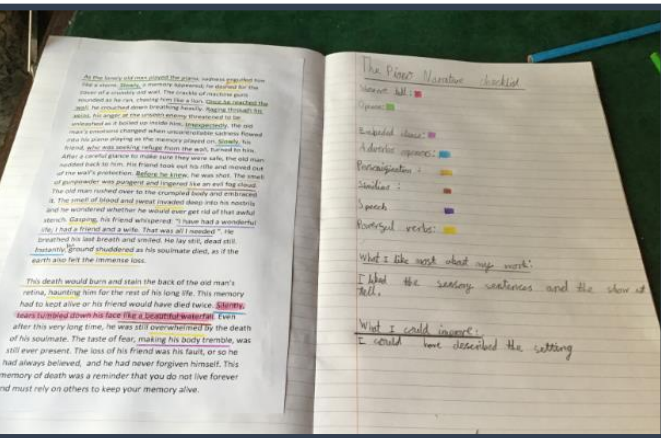
Ava Mae's Bike for the piano story.



Jem



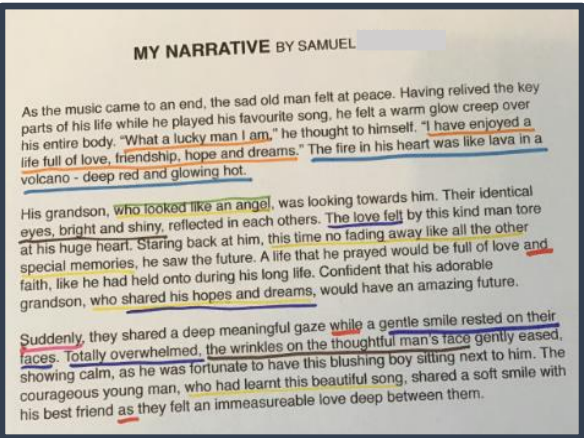
Jem's junk modelling for the piano story.



Henry and Samuel's piano narrative and checklist.



Henry



Samuel

Book Review

"Code Name Bananas" is about a Young boy called Eric, his uncle and a gorilla that went on a HUGE adventure. Eric was a small boy that loved animals but everyone at his school called him: Elephant ears and because his ears were only a LITTLE big. His best friend is a gorilla named Gertrude and one day Gertrude was in trouble! So Eric and his uncle (Sid) went on an adventure to save her.

The book had many silly moments in it like when Gertrude ate a top hat for no reason at all. At the same time, it was enjoyable and amusing. I loved the personalities of the characters and the setting was fitting for the time. The story took place in London during World War 2. David Walliams has once again written a fantastic book. Although it had 476 pages, it was so good, that I whizzed through it within a week of receiving it!

Leke's Book Review



Leke



Ruri's letter to character, Andy.



Ruri



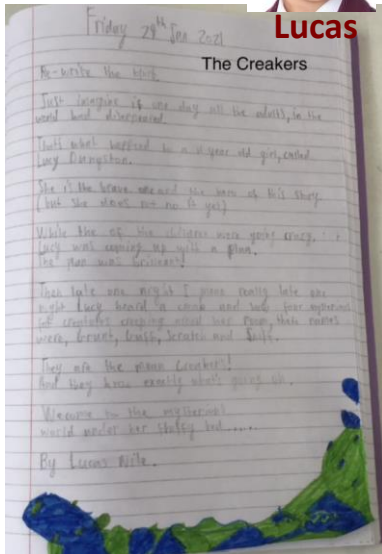
Andy and Terry live in a huge house but not any old house it's a 91 story tree house there's a giant spider web, a human pinball machine, the world's most powerful whirlpool... and a big red button...should we push it?



William



Lucas



Year 6 go Back in Time

In history, Year 6 have been showing great empathy by writing and recording diary recounts of life in a Victorian Workhouse.

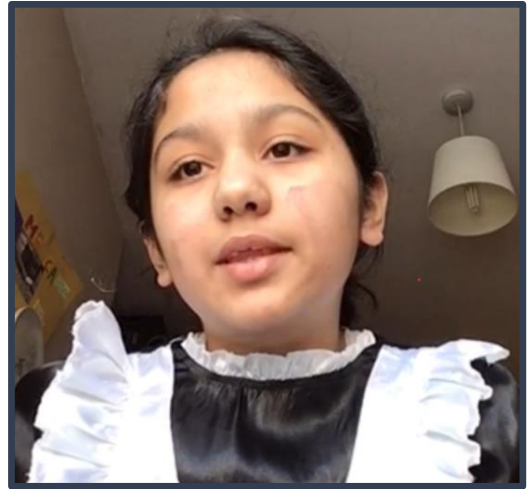
Workhouse

Dear diary

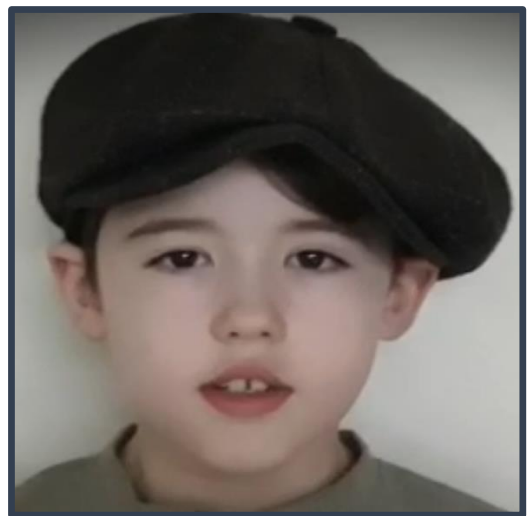
The date is Tuesday 3rd of April 1901 we are all wearing the same horrible clothes which are made from dark, coarse materials. They also are designed to be uncomfortable. If you are too big or too small for the clothes you still have to wear them. I hate them they are itchy and too big for me. In the workhouse I am so bored I hate doing work from the cack of dorm to night. After about 2 hours of work I get super tired, but they just make me work harder if I yawn. Are master is probably the strictest one there is if you say to him, we are late for the next lesson he slaps you then says we need to go to the next lesson. But the worst thing at all is we cannot talk. If you come to the workhouse with someone you rarely see them only on a Sunday unless you come with another child because men women and children get separated.



Lucas

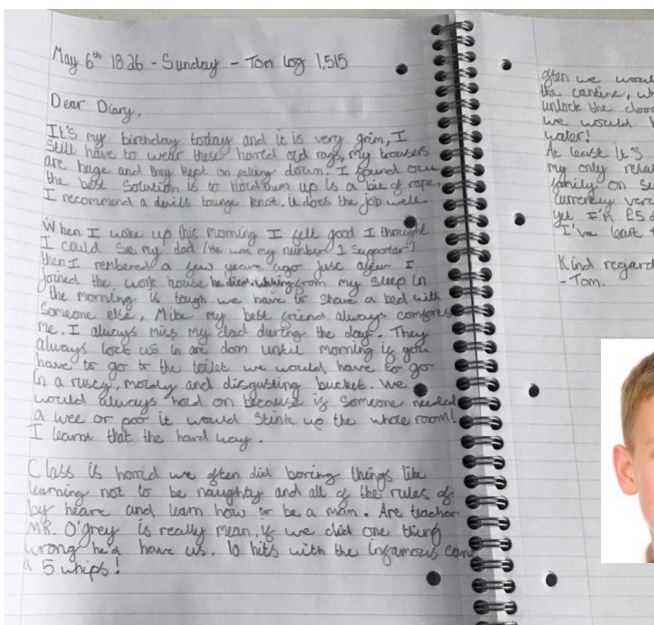


Mehreen



Milo

Mehreen and Milo dressed for the occasion.



Tom

Monday, 11th May 1835

Dear diary,

It's 4 o'clock in the morning. I'm writing this in a hurry so I don't get caught. I'm in the work house and I've been here ever since I was 3, I'm 10 now. My mum and dad said we has to go to a workhouse. When we got there, we was separated. Mum went in the ladies room, and dad went in the men's room. My mum was wearing a black dress, that's the colour dress you wear when you have a child. They use clothes to sort different people. In the night, they lock our dormitories. We cannot go out the room at all until it's time to be let out in the morning. We wake up at 6 am and start going to classes and breakfast. Yes, that sounds like they treat us well, but its honestly worse than prison. 4 people sleep in one bed, but that's because its mighty cold in ere. We have to do prayers everyday so that we can get better lives out of the work house. Classes are very boring and the girls aren't allowed to do classes, instead, they do knitting and sewing, or even cooking. For breakfast, we're all cramped in one room eating anything the cooks made. Usually it is thick porridge which makes me vomit a lot, rotten vegetables, and even more gross things that I don't want to mention. We rarely have meat though, we're only allowed to have it at Christmas.

I work at the rope factory. There Is a bucket of old ropes that children like me have to untie. These ropes can give us blisters, splinters, and sometimes even burns. If we don't do our job right, we will be punished. We can get hit by a stick, put our hands on a very hot rope and get them burnt (that happened to me, it was so scary and awful. I almost lost my hand) and many more. When someone is getting punished, we all have to watch. You're not allowed to close your eyes!

We can only see our parents on Sunday and have a short amount of time. Oh gosh, I can hear staff coming! I better go before I get caught. Bye for now.



Yasmin

Yasmin got into character to write her diary entry.



OUR WORLD PHOTOGRAPHY CHALLENGE



Following on from the amazing artwork being made remotely, we are launching a new Photography challenge on the theme of 'Our World'. We have so much to celebrate in 'Our World', from nature and animals to our favourite hobbies, people and places.

Take on the challenge of creating a photograph to share with our Royal Russell community and show us where you are finding inspiration whilst working remotely.

The Photography challenge is an opportunity to build on our Photography skills and to get creative in our home communities. You could take your photo in your house, in your garden or at your local park - working safely nearby to your home. All photographs will be shared in an online gallery.



Art Tip - Upload your photograph at original size for best quality. Aim for sharp, clear photos!



All entries must be uploaded to Firefly by **Monday 22nd February 2021** or emailed to Miss Ciccone cciccone@royalrussell.co.uk.

We will have a winner in every phase.

Good luck, everyone!

