

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, a few announcements:

- Please be aware that our Google Classrooms are closed over the half term holiday. You can still access the learning but teachers will not be in the classrooms or able to respond to posts. There will be staff in school over the holiday so if you need anything please call us or email [head@ashmount.islington.sch.uk](mailto:head@ashmount.islington.sch.uk)
- If you have children in Year 6, Year 1, Reception or Nursery please do complete the survey we have sent out to you by 5pm on Tuesday 26th May.

I also want to thank each and every one of you for your response to learning whilst we have been away from school—the response from parents and children to either our online Google Classroom offer or paper based learning has been nothing short of exceptional and the whole school staff team are incredibly proud of all of your efforts.

Following the Governments announcements on phased re-opening, we have in joint consultation with the school learning collective we work with, Future Zone and the London Borough of Islington have devised a return plan which will see us start with a phased return of Year 6 on June 3rd, followed by Year 1, Reception and Nursery dependent on regularly review risk assessments. This return looks slightly different to the proposed Government return sequence and we have structured our in this way as we think it is both the safest way to do so whilst ensuring social-distancing as hopefully the R rate continues to fall nationally and pedagogically makes more sense to do so. Our Year 6 children will leave us at the end of the summer term and we feel they require our earliest support. The younger year groups obviously have an extensive period of time still to remain at Ashmount and as such we will stagger their return as we are confident in our processes of larger scale return. We will of course continue to offer our Key Worker offer and to other key groups. This return schedule will not be finally confirmed until later this week as we are still awaiting clearance from the Government and key stakeholders.

Best wishes and stay safe, Anthony Carmel (Headteacher)

Ashmount Primary School

Community - Responsibility - Growth



**Apply now** for a place in our Nursery for our September and January intakes.



**Children between 3 and 4 years of age are eligible to join our nursery class.**

All children are entitled to a free 15 hours place (Mon-Fri, 9am - 12pm or 12:30pm - 3:30pm). Some children will be eligible for a free 30 hours place (Mon-Fri, 9am - 3:30pm).

We also offer families the opportunity to supplement this free entitlement by buying additional sessions.  
**Application forms can be obtained from the school office.**

## This week (18 - 24 May 2020) is Mental Health Awareness Week.

In these current times we are all concerned for the health and wellbeing of the ones we love, ourselves and the communities that we are part of.

Mind.org.uk is encouraging people to share their worries and also their top tips for keeping well. Just a few of these include:

"Try to keep to a routine as much as you can – eat and sleep at normal times if possible."

"I have found that being creative has helped me so much."

"Try to remember, nothing lasts forever. You can get through this difficult time."

"Speak out about how you feel, you will be surprised at who is willing to help you."

"Be kind to yourself. Take it hour by hour – not even day by day."

"I find minimising watching bad news on the TV helpful."

"It's okay to feel however you feel, people cope and react to things in different ways."

"Try not to put pressure on yourself to be too productive."

You can find lots of information, tips and resources here:

<https://www.mind.org.uk/get-involved/mental-health-awareness-week>

The National Health Service has also got some very specific advice for parents and carers who are now faced with having their children at home.

## Department of Education Parent Guidance on Schools Reopening

The Department of Education have published the following guidance and Q&As for Parents and Carers.

Opening schools and educational settings to more pupils from 1 June: guidance for parents and carers

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

## Q&A which answers key questions parents may have

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

## Supporting your child's education during Covid 19

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/supporting-your-childrens-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

## Google Classroom: Parent Survey Outcomes

Thank you to the 83 families who responded to our Google Classroom survey. Your feedback is really important and we will take it on as we develop the curriculum and interaction on the platform. Here are the headlines from the survey:

How well is Google Classroom working for you and your child/children? [1 star = not very well at all. 5 stars = it is working brilliantly]

3.8 stars (average rating)

What is your view of the amount of learning activities available for your child/children on Google Classrooms?

It is not enough = 4.35%

It is the right amount = 72.46%

It is too much = 23.19%

Each week there are 5 pieces of learning we ask children and parents to upload. Is the amount of support material for these assignments...

Too little = 10.14%

Just right = 70.01%

Not enough = 18.84%

Are there any barriers for your child when completing the assignments?

Yes – we do not have the right resources for some activities = 6%

Yes – the assignments are too difficult for my child = 6%

Yes – I struggle to manage my own work commitments and supporting my child with their learning = 41%

No – My child can complete the assignments = 31%

We had many really appreciative and supportive comments in response to the final question 'If you have any other comments about what is working well and what we can improve' including...

"You have provided the best possible learning opportunities and we want to thank the whole staff for the swift and successful move to using Google Classrooms."

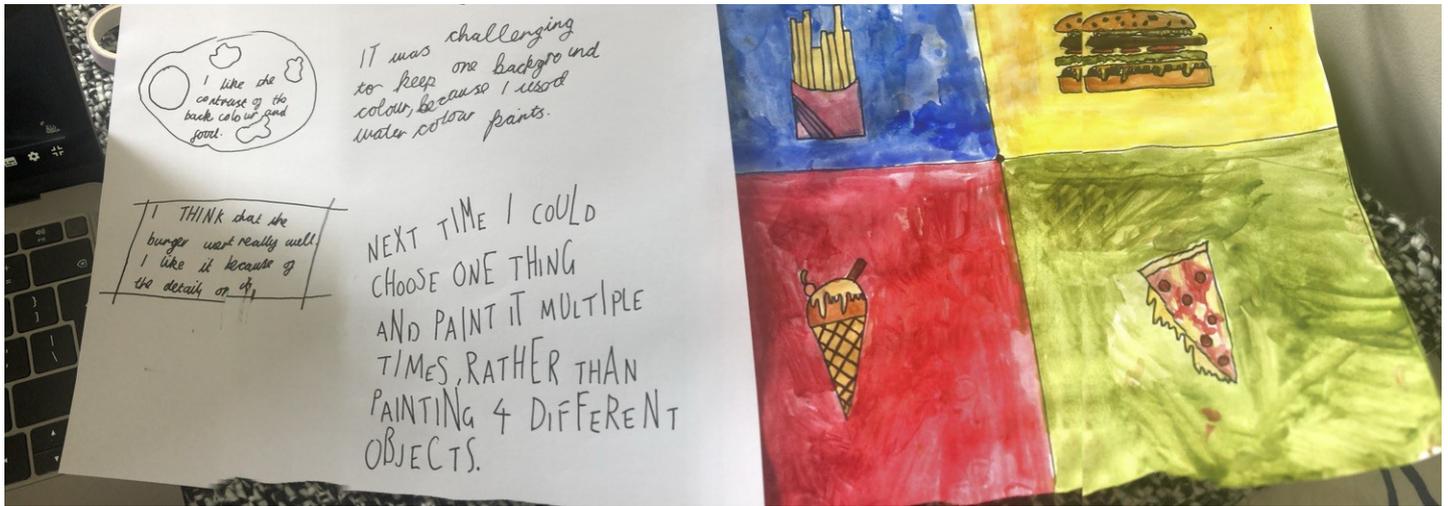
"We are really appreciating the time and engagement that is being provided by the teachers... This is hugely valuable."

"The effort by the teachers has been outstanding, the material and planning that has gone into this is amazing."

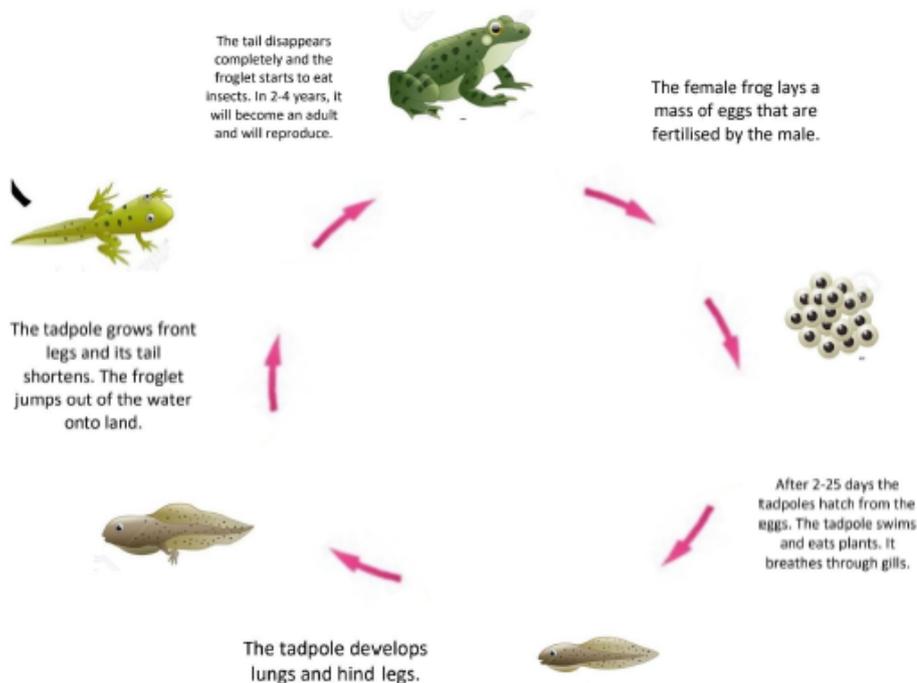
Of course, there are areas for improvement and we are talking about these as a staff and working on plans to act on them. The main request was for more teacher interaction, including videos from teachers. We are working on this. Please look out for further updates and if you have any other feedback, do contact us. We know how important maintaining connection and community is right now for all of us. We all want this to be the best learning we can provide for our children and their families at this unusual time.

Ellie Haworth, Deputy Headteacher

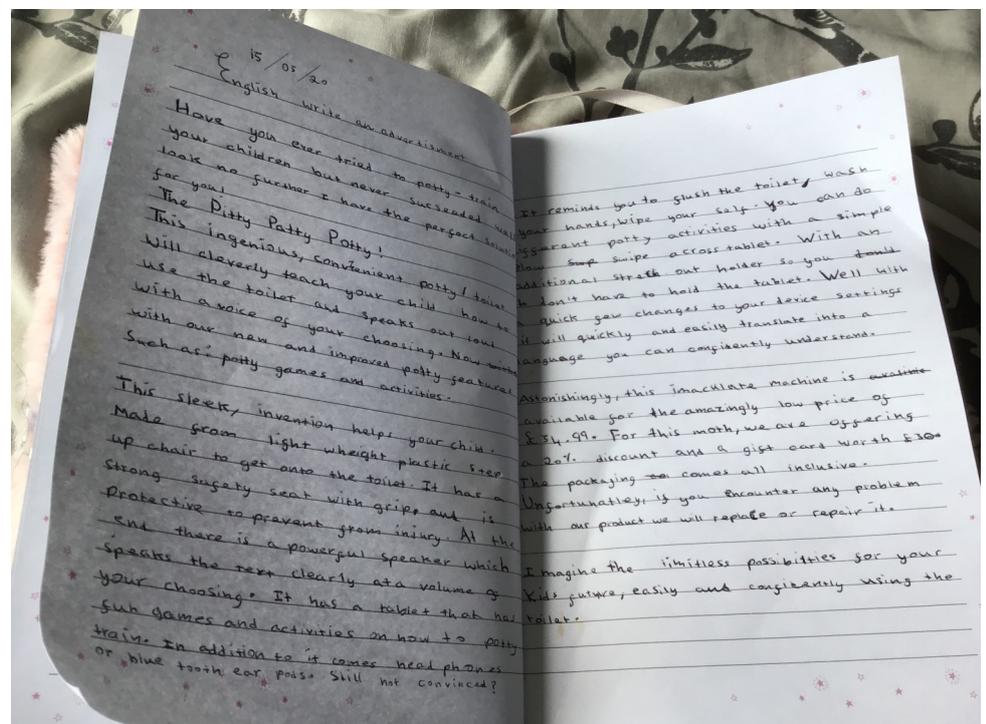
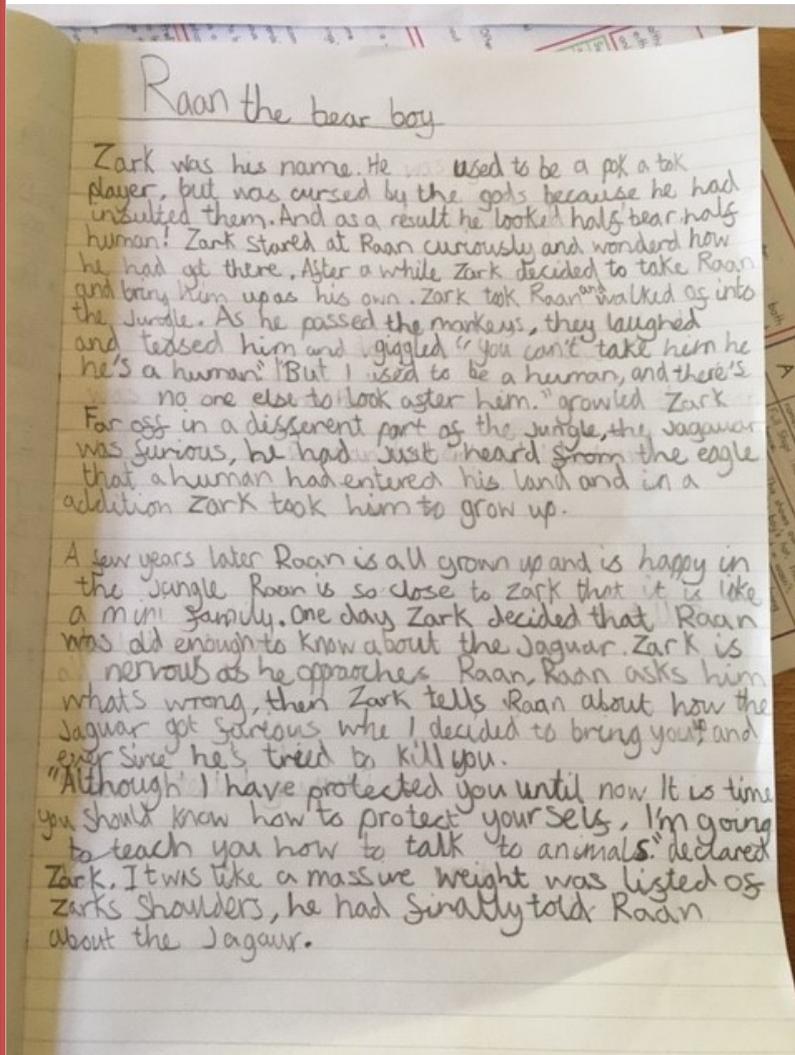
## Home learning in photos



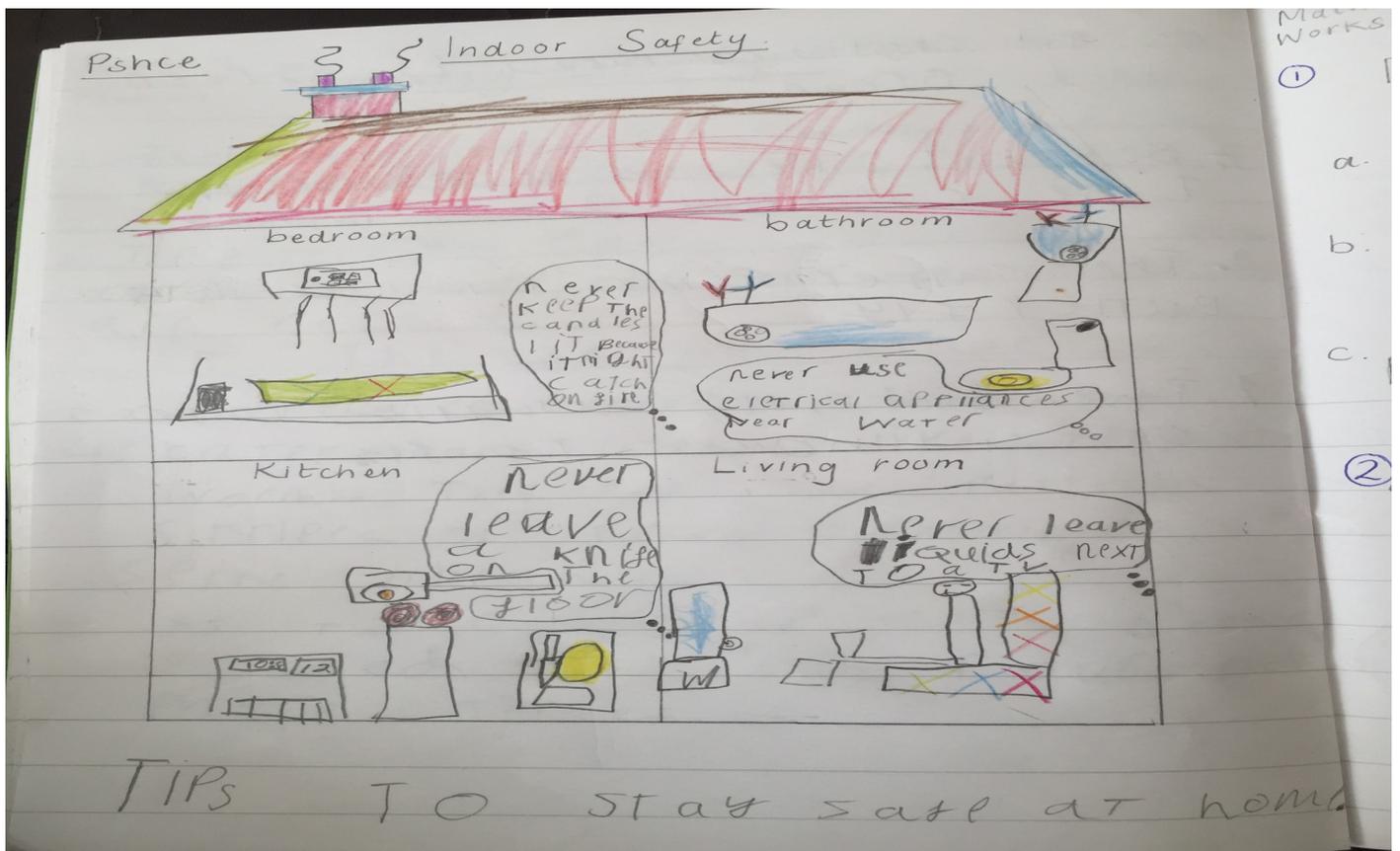
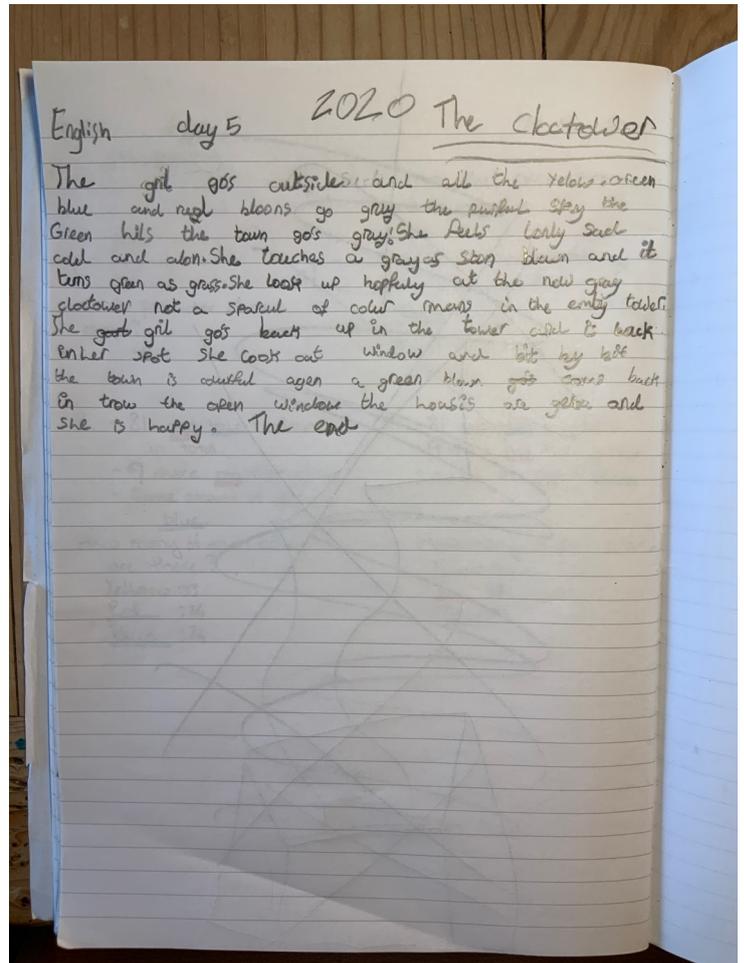
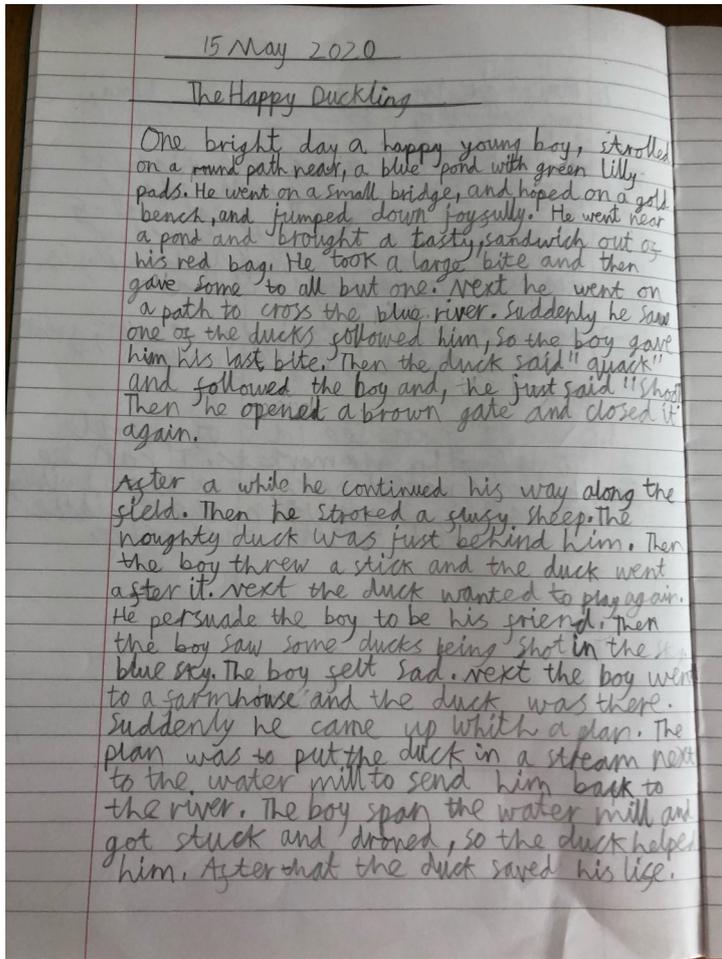
## Life cycle of a Frog



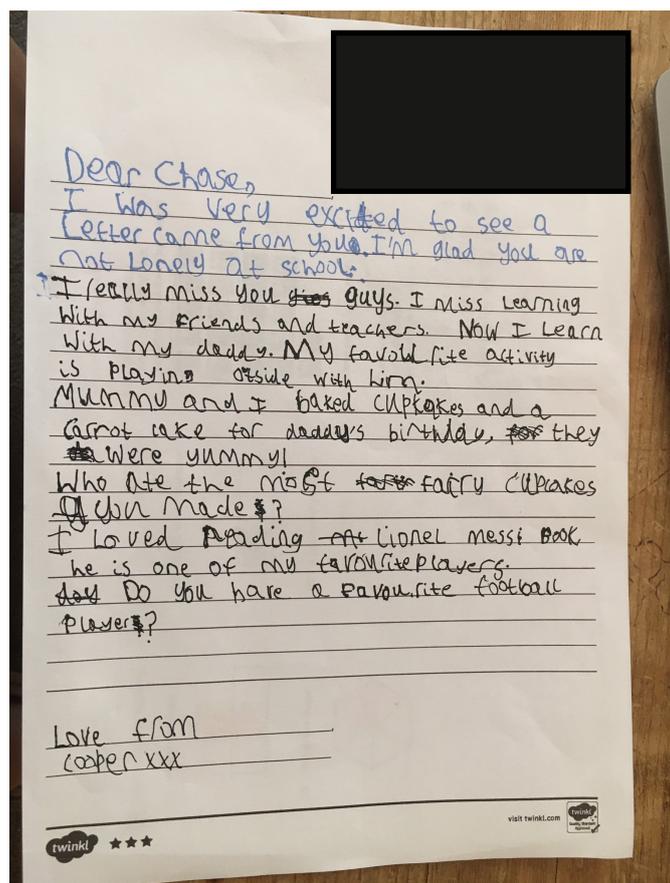
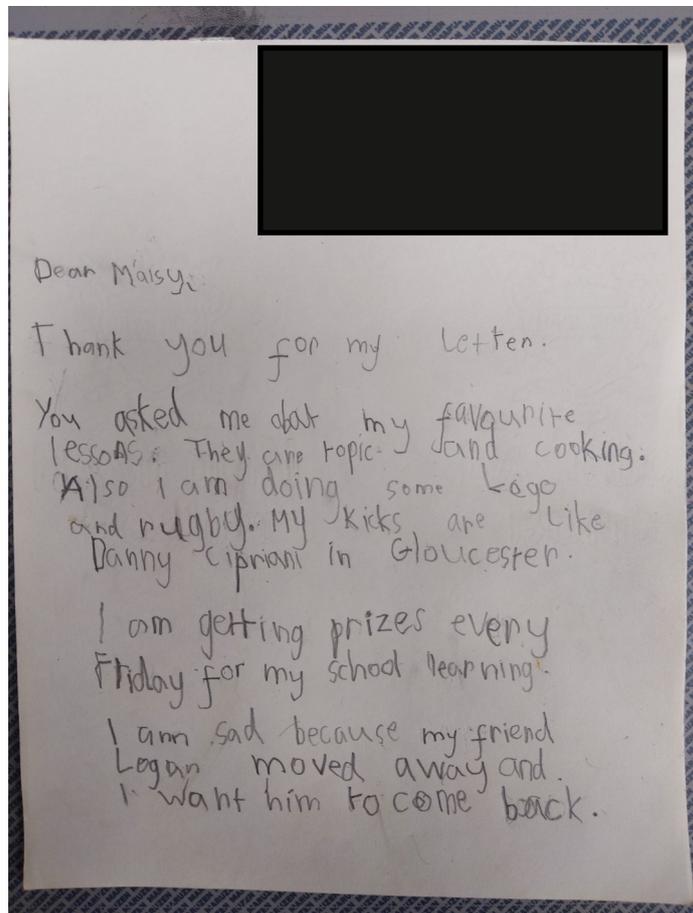
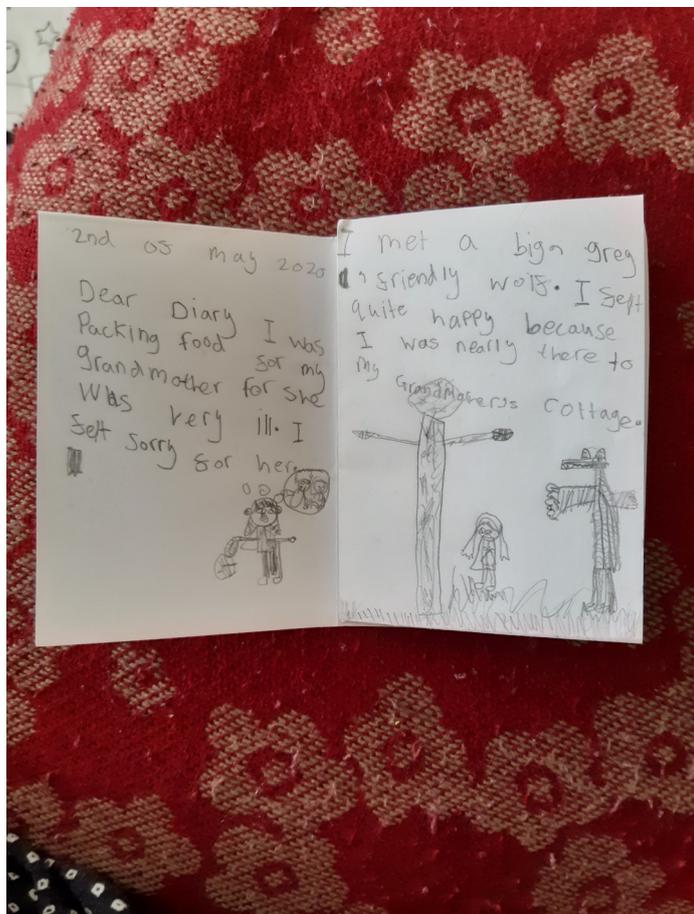
## Home learning in photos



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## Home learning in photos



## **Free School Meals Check:** Who can get free school meals?

Children are entitled to receive free school meals if they or their parents or guardians receive any of the following:

- Universal Credit providing you have net earnings of less than £7,400 a year (£616.67 a month)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Guarantee Credit element of State Pension Credit
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Child Tax Credit (providing you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190 as assessed by HMRC)

It is a simple process to check by going online at the following address. If you qualify you will be informed straight away and the school will be informed within 5 days and then able to issue supermarket vouchers via the Government's national Edenred scheme to support children on Free School Meals. It does not matter which local authority you live in you still apply via the Islington portal at the website below:

<https://www.islington.gov.uk//children-and-families/benefits-and-financial-support/free-school-meals-and-uniform-grant>

Congratulations to and who are this week's current league table top ten leaders. Here are the top 10 children on the leaderboard for Times Table Rockstars:

1. Samir
2. Milla
3. Sonny
4. Amanda
5. Piper
6. Rayane
7. Laurie
8. Esther
9. Amar
10. Gedeon



Don't forget to watch Friday's Achievement Assembly in the Google Classrooms to see who else is being celebrated. This now goes live on a Friday afternoon as it would if we were at school!



Are you worried about your child?

Worried about how to answer their questions?

Unsure how best to support them emotionally during the  
lockdown?

Fiona is happy to discuss any questions and offer  
advice.



[fiona.brisbourne@place2be.org.uk](mailto:fiona.brisbourne@place2be.org.uk)

