

Friday 15th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, may I thank you all for your incredible email messages of support this week but also for all families whether at home or at school engaging with our learning offer so well. I am further refining the who may access the school based offer as in some Year groups we have reached the maximum number of children who can attend in line with our risk assessment which limits numbers across each year group to 20 in Nursery and Reception and 22 in Year groups 1- 6. We have limited the size to protect children and staff at a time when the Covid-19 virus figure continue to remain high across London but also to ensure we can fully support the majority of school children and families who are working remotely at this time. I will be in direct contact with families of critical workers as we refine this, which at times through a priority process means some families will be asked to learn from home to ensure the families with greatest need can access the school offer. I am sure that you will all support us in this difficult but necessary process.

Thank you for all your feedback about the Google Classroom teaching and learning. We are constantly reviewing our live learning across the school and next week we will be making some changes for Year 1. From Monday, there will be a live hello at 9.15am followed by a live English lesson. There will then be pre-recorded lessons for Maths and Phonics. These changes are based on feedback and our own reflections on how the children are doing in their learning. We want the families of our younger children to have greater flexibility in how they manage screen time and we have found that in Maths and Phonics lesson some of the learning is lost through the live lessons. For example, children are not always able to see the sound cards clearly or see the details of the resources and slides in Maths. We will also add in a live story time. More details will be posted in the Google Classroom stream. We will run these changes as a trial and would love to hear your feedback. You can contact the team by emailing info@ashmount.islington.sch.uk. Please send us feedback that way rather than through comments in the classroom. If you have any questions or feedback about teaching and learning you can contact our Deputy Headteachers Ross and Ellie through this email address too.

As you know the Government have announced a further change to the primary school offer for Nursery children, they would like, similar to private nurseries our nursery to be fully open. However, due to current local high Covid-19 infection and transmission rates we are currently not able to offer this full provision. We will on Monday communicate more fully with Nursery parents to explain how we will look to extend the offer going forward to stay within our risk assessed 20 child maximum class size and offer additional parents some additional support. We accept that this is not ideal but we wish to ensure we have both a sustainable offer and one that keeps children, staff and parents safe.

I did mention last week that we would let you know what we intend to do with our usual weekly assembly offer. We have made several decisions in this regard:

- We will not run class assemblies this half term as the logistics of teaching children at home and school are our key priority
- Monday assemblies will be live at 3 p.m. and there will be a link in the Assembly and story time Google Classroom but a link will also be posted in Year group classroom, we will also email this link to all families
- Friday Celebration Assemblies will similarly be live at 3 p.m. and there will be a link in the Assembly and story time Google Classroom but a link will also be posted in each Year group classroom, we will also email this link to all families

Best wishes and stay safe,

Anthony Carmel (Headteacher)

Friday 15th January 2021

A note on our Curriculum

As you know, at the start of the year we made the difficult decision to refocus our curriculum and increase the amount of learning time for English and Maths in order to support children to catch up on the learning lost during the first lock down. For some children, learning remotely or in small bubbles in school did not significantly change their knowledge and skills and they quickly adapted to the academic side of being back in school. However, our assessment showed us that for most children in Years 2 and up there had been a noticeable impact on their attainment and they continue to have gaps in their learning.

In this Spring term our normal broad and balanced curriculum continues for Nursery, Reception and Year 1 as it has from the start of the academic year.

In Years 2 – 6 children now have Topic back in their timetables, along with Phonics and Reading, English, Maths, PE, Music, Science, handwriting and spelling. We continue to have two or three additional English or maths lessons each week.

We have continued, and will continue with, our theme weeks and performances whenever this is possible.

The teachers are working hard to create a rich and engaging curriculum across all subjects during a time when we are also supporting children to close the gaps that were created during the first lock down. As we are now in lockdown again, with some children learning in school and some at home, we will continue to look carefully at the impact this has on their wellbeing and learning and adapt what we do to support them.

Every week, we look carefully at the learning in each class and talk as a team about how we can best shape the curriculum to support children to be really ready for their next step in education. By the summer term all of the usual Ashmount curriculum subjects will be back in the timetables.

If you have any questions or concerns about teaching and learning, please contact Ross or Ellie our fabulous Deputy Headteachers.

ASHMOUNT PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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What we will be learning the week beginning 18.01.21

Nursery: We will be reading the story 'Jack and the beanstalk'. We will be memorising and acting out the Giant's chant and will be thinking about what we would like to find at the top of a beanstalk!

Resources at home next week: Some recycling for junk modelling

Reception

English: We will be reading 'Supertato' and creating a wanted poster for the villain.

Maths: We will be ordering our numbers to 10 and matching amounts to numerals.

Resources at home next week: A fruit or vegetable and some materials to decorate it with, Numicon or similar item that shows numbers 1-10.

Year 1

English: We will be learning about the Wright Brothers and the first flight. We will use the information we find to write a report about the Wright Brothers.

Maths: We will be consolidating our learning on addition and subtraction and start learning about 2D and 3D shapes.

Resources at home next week: None listed.

Year 2

English: We will be learning to count money.

Maths: We will be writing a diary entry from the perspective of Mary Seacole.

Resources at home next week: It would be useful to have a selection of coins if possible for our Maths lessons next week.

Year 3

English: We will continue reading 'I Was A Rat'. And using this as a stimulus will write an eyewitness account imagining we were there in the story.

Maths: We will be learning how to recognise and write unit and non-unit fractions, count in tenths and add fractions.

Resources at home next week: Cubes or small items that you have at home such as pasta.

Year 4

English: We will be innovating the setting in our own story writing, based on "Journey to Jo'burg".

Maths: We will be dividing 2-digit numbers by a 1-digit number, focussing on sharing into equal groups and exploring remainders.

Resources at home next week: For science next week you will need water, food colouring, celery or white carnations, clear containers/glass, table knives and a chopping board.

Year 5

English: We will be focusing on non-chronological reports based on our learning of 'Holes' where we create our own deadly, desert animal.

Maths: We will be exploring division and building up to using the written method of short division (bus-stop method).

Resources at home next week:

Year 6

English: We will be writing a modern day re-telling of Romeo and Juliet.

Maths: We will be exploring percentages. We will begin to convert percentages and find a percentage of an amount.

Resources at home next week: None listed.

Friday 15th January 2021

A Firm Reminder

Whenever you are on the school site, morning or afternoon, please ensure you wear a face covering. If someone else is collecting your child, do make sure they know that a face covering is required.

Please keep your distance from others. At this time, you may have to wait a little longer than normal to pick up your child as we keep safety measures in place. It is a great help if you can be patient and understanding.

Only one adult should come onto the site to drop off or pick up.



Friday 15th January 2021

Self-isolation guidance

Current guidance:

1. Household members and other close contacts now need to self-isolate for 10 days (previously 14 days)
2. The first day of self-isolation is day 0, and the period of self-isolation lasts for the next 10 full days

Self-isolation advice

Positive cases of coronavirus

- **First day of self-isolation (day 0):** The day symptoms started, or the day the test was taken if no symptoms were present.
- **Length of self-isolation:** The first day of self-isolation is day 0, and the period of self-isolation lasts for the next 10 full days.

Household contacts

- **First day of self-isolation (day 0):** The day the first person in the household's symptoms started, or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms.
- **Length of self-isolation:** The first day of self-isolation is day 0, and the period of self-isolation lasts for the next 10 full days.

Other close contacts (not from same household)

- **First day of self-isolation (day 0):** The last day of contact with the positive case during their infectious period (i.e. from 48 hours before symptoms started), or 48 hours before the test day if no symptoms.
- **Length of self-isolation:** The first day of self-isolation is day 0, and the period of self-isolation lasts for the next 10 full days.

Friday 15th January 2021

Times Tables Rock Stars

Congratulations to this week's current league table leaders in each year group! In line with our Growth Mindset philosophy, this charts the biggest improvement in correct scores over the last seven days.

The top 3 most improved children for each year group this week are:

Y4 = Cairo, Maher, Sara

Y5 = Mohamed, Scarlett, Malachi

Y6 = Daniella, Cy, Max



Piano and Singing lessons

We are happy to announce that we now have a new piano and singing teacher, who will be offering music lessons after school at Ashmount. If your child is interested in having lessons please contact the teacher: Natalie Higgins; natalielouisethiggins@hotmail.com Tel: 07966 439 794

Natalie Higgins is a highly experienced, creative musician and composer from London.

With an MA in Jazz studies from Trinity Laban Conservatoire, Natalie has taught in schools around London and is especially interested in finding the best ways to help creativity and musical skills flourish early on in children using both stimulating and playful techniques.

School Diary Dates

Class Assemblies

We are re-thinking this half term class assemblies and will make an announcement here next weekend.

| | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Tuesday 2nd March | 5 Green |
| Tuesday 9th March | 1 Blue |
| Tuesday 16th March | 3 Green |
| Tuesday 23rd March | Reception Blue |
| Tuesday 30th March | 4 Green |

Parent Consultation Meetings (Virtual)

| |
|---|
| Tuesday 9th March 2:30 p.m. — 5 p.m. |
| Wednesday 10th March 3:45 p.m. — 7 p.m. |

Ashmount Together Events

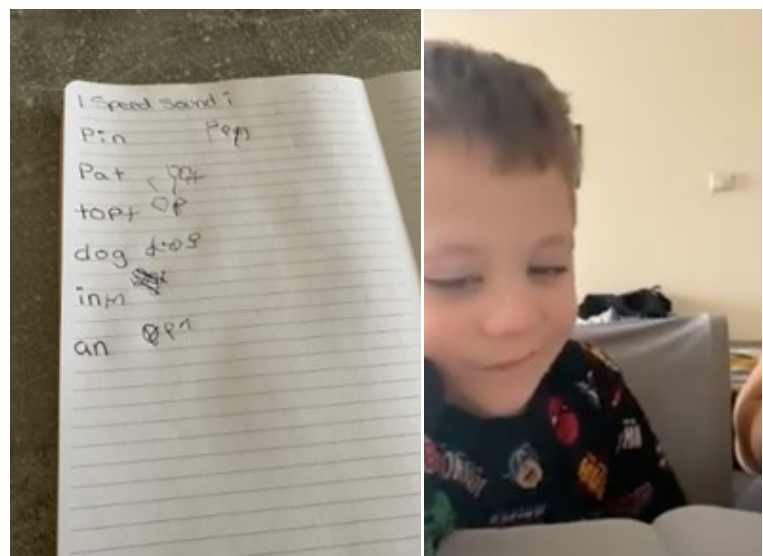
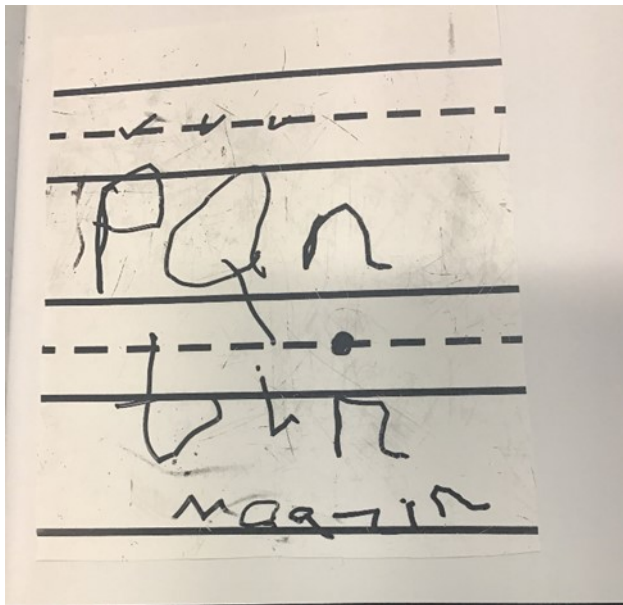
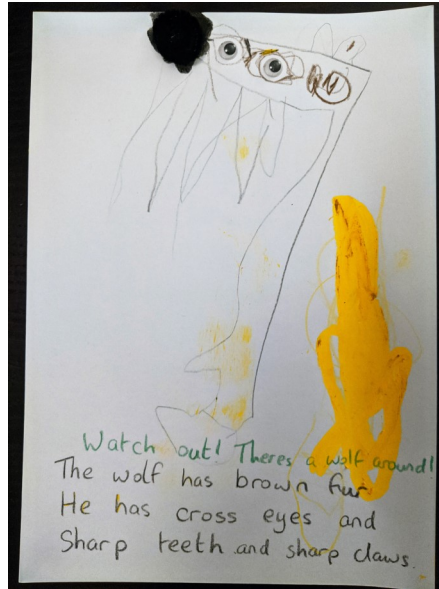
Weekly Friday Food Bank collection (see details in this newsletter and in posters around school).

End of term

Wednesday 31st March 2 p.m.

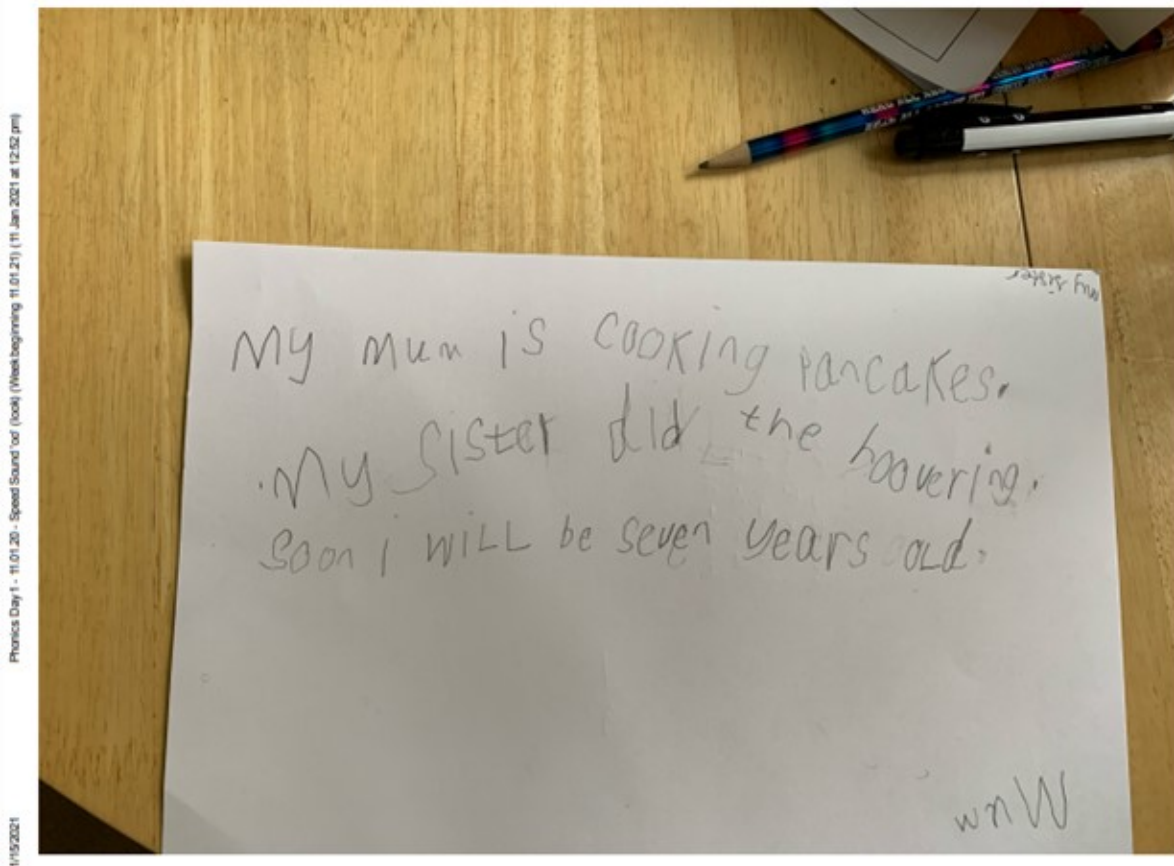
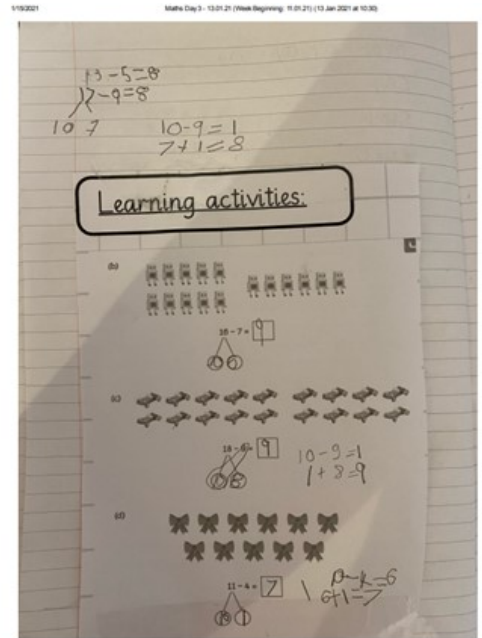
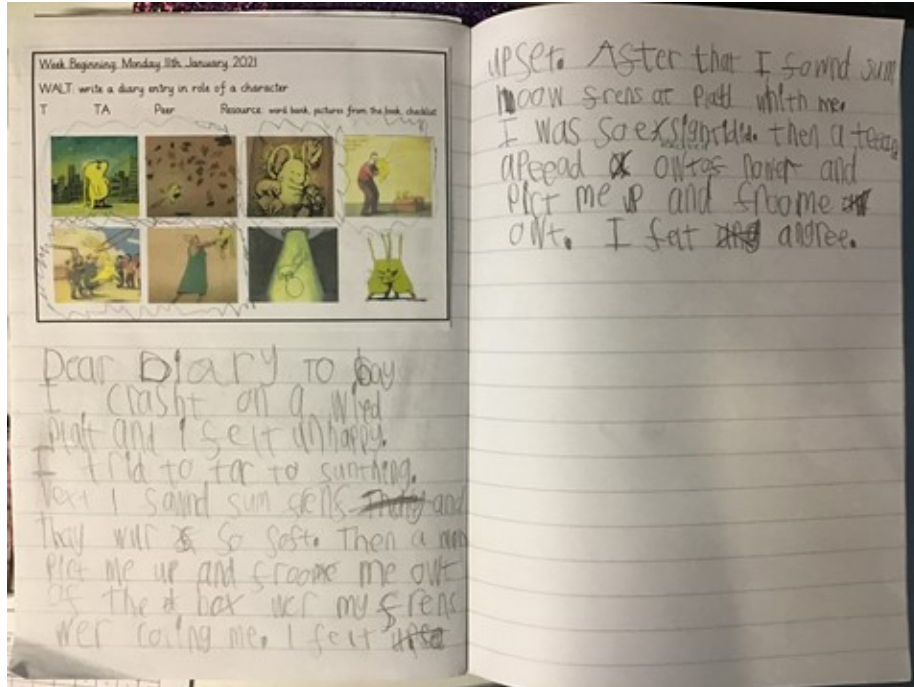
Friday 15th January 2021

Our learning in pictures: Nursery and Reception



Friday 15th January 2021

Our learning in pictures: Year 1



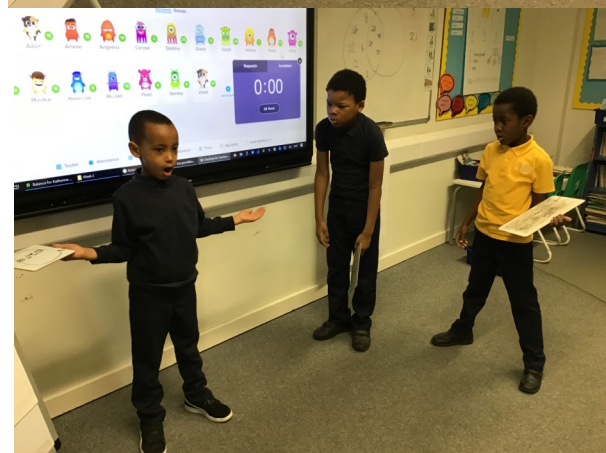
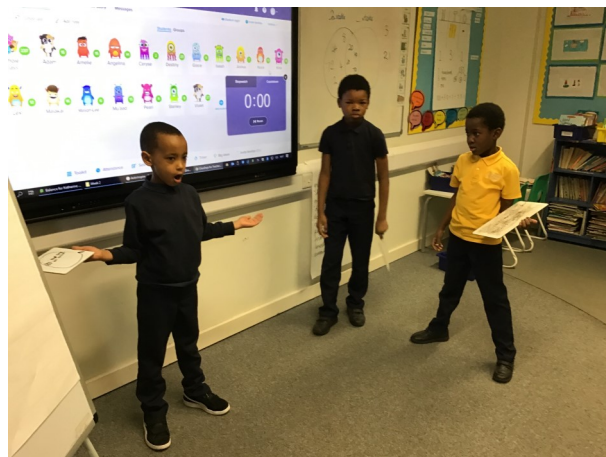
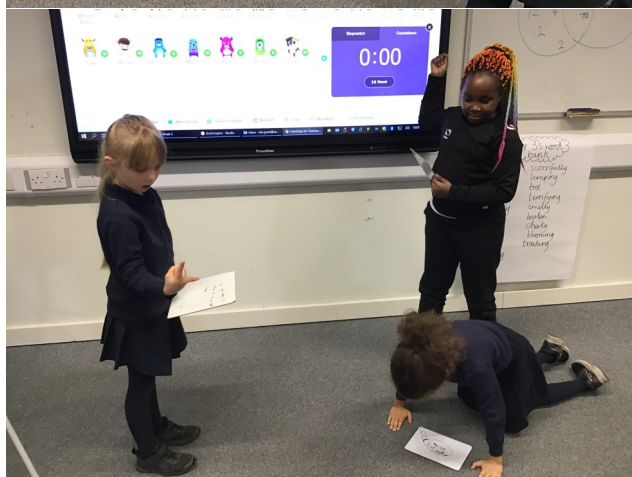
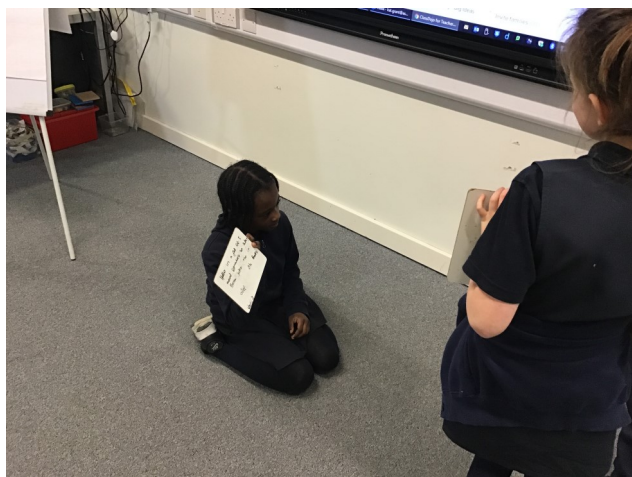
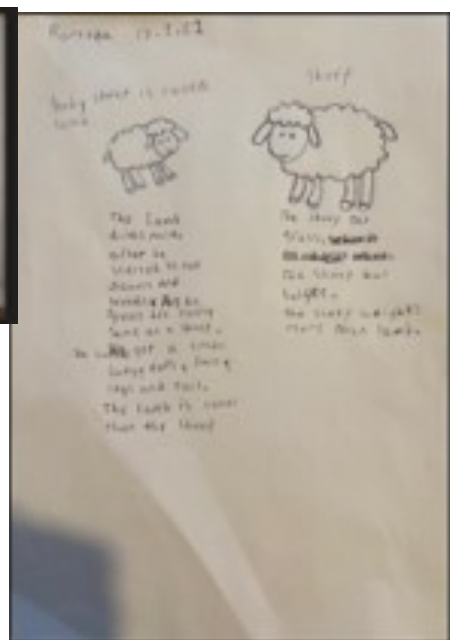
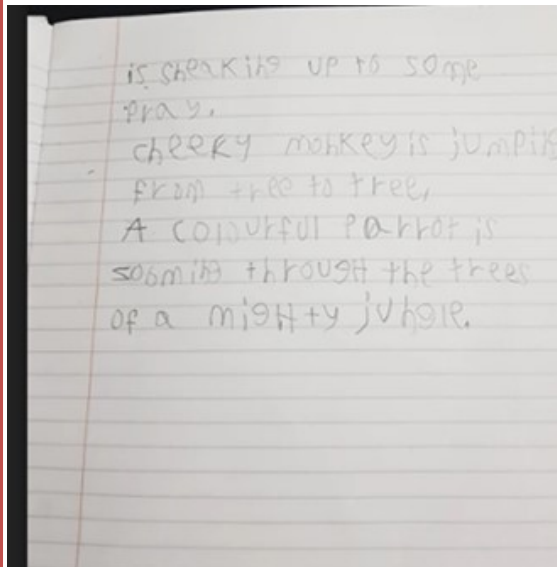
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Our learning in pictures: Year 1



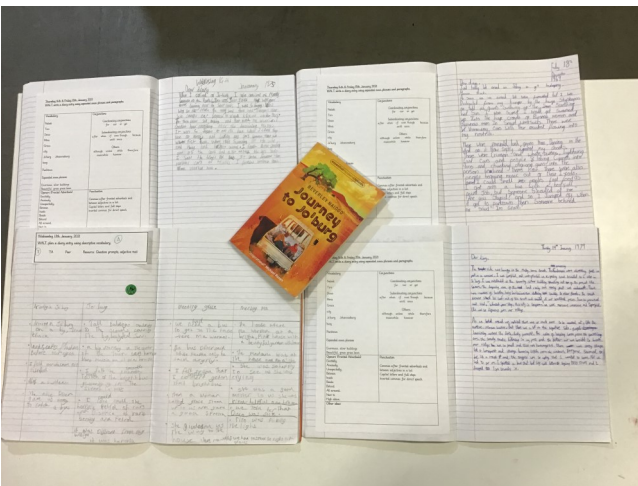
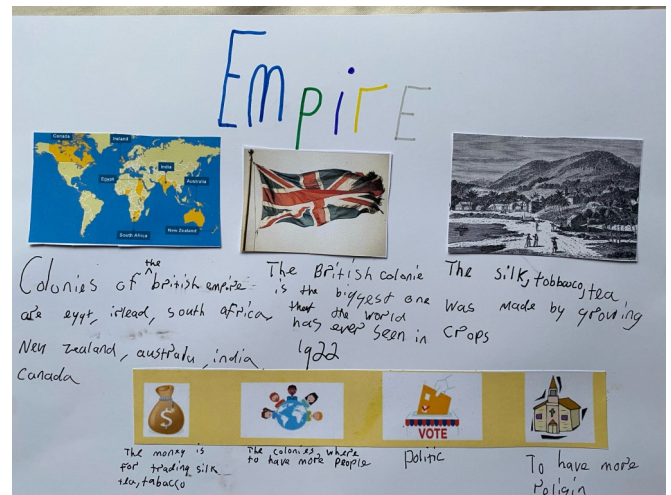
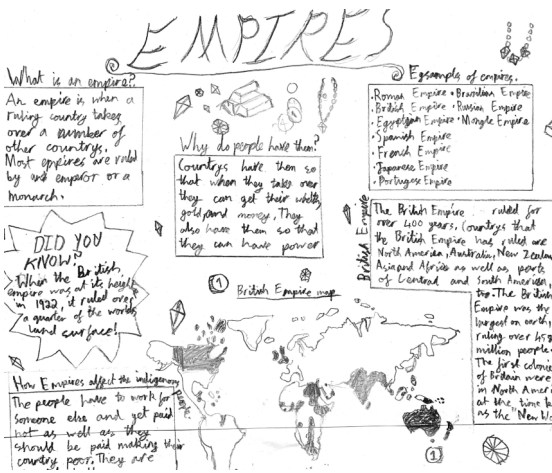
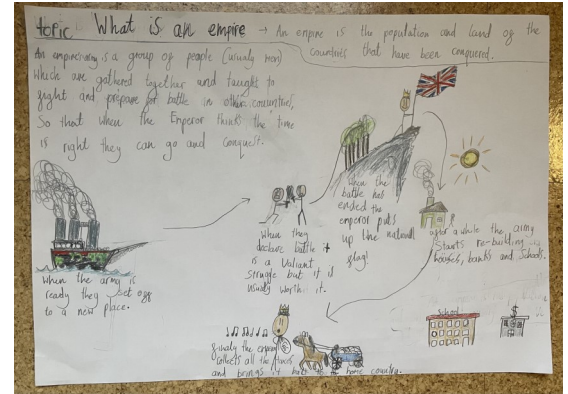
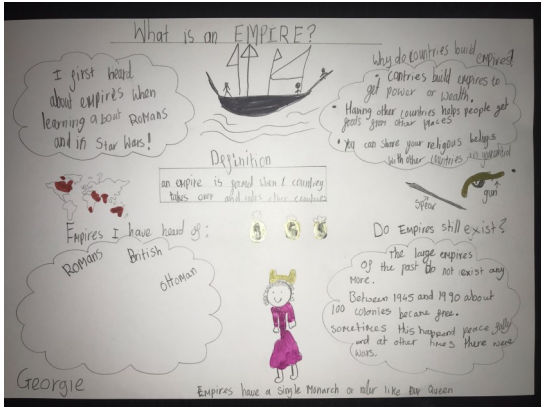
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Our learning in pictures: Year 3



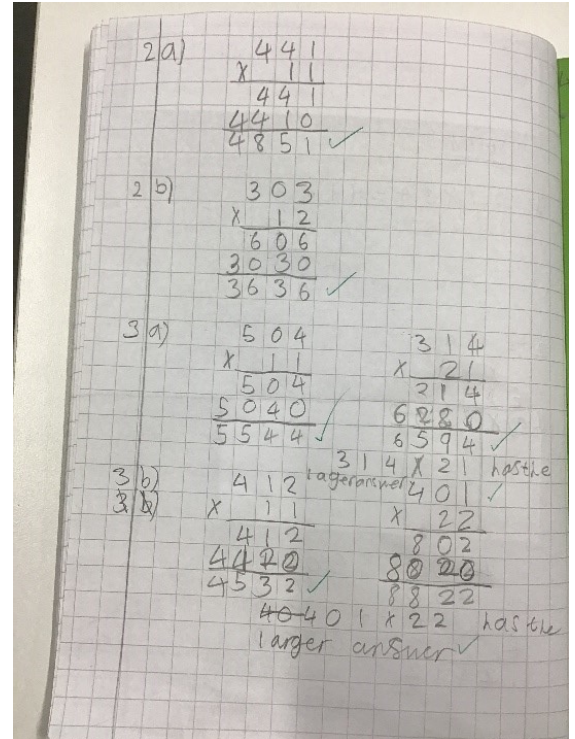
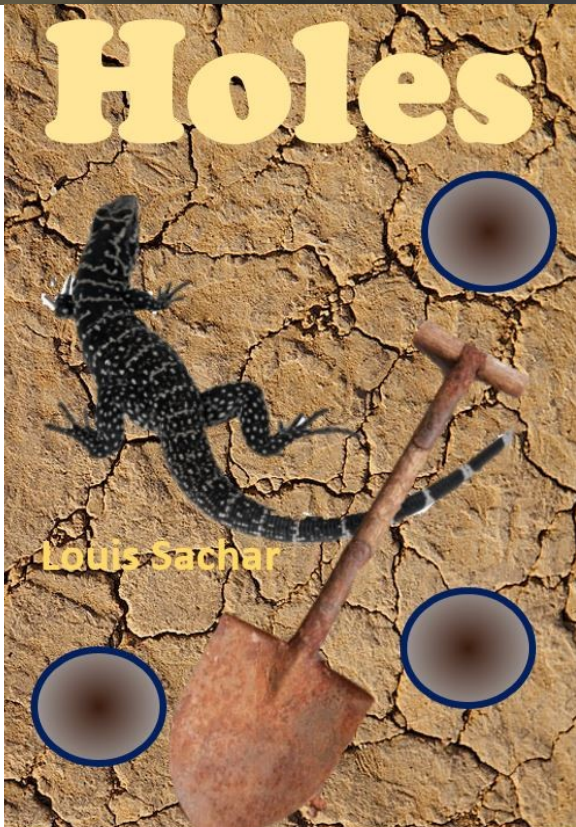
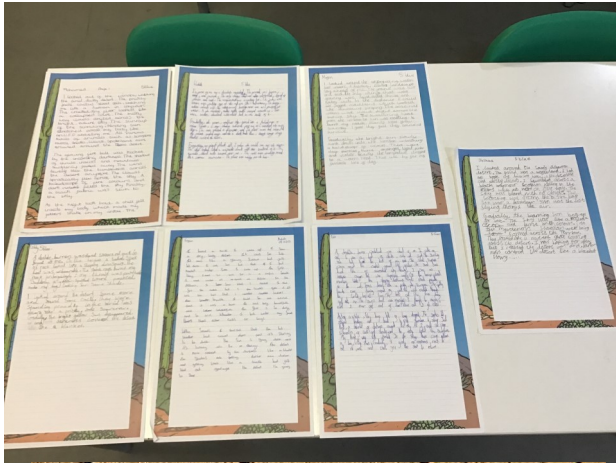
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Our learning in pictures: Year 4



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Our learning in pictures: Year 5



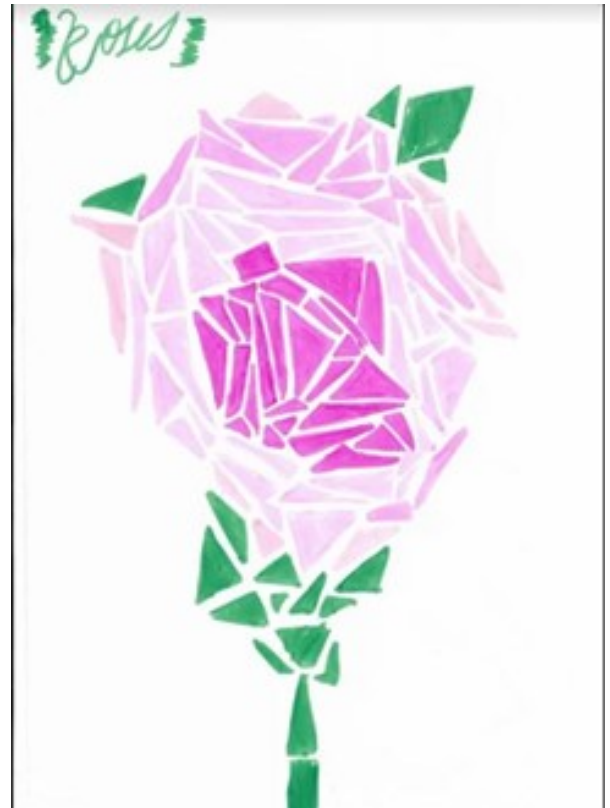
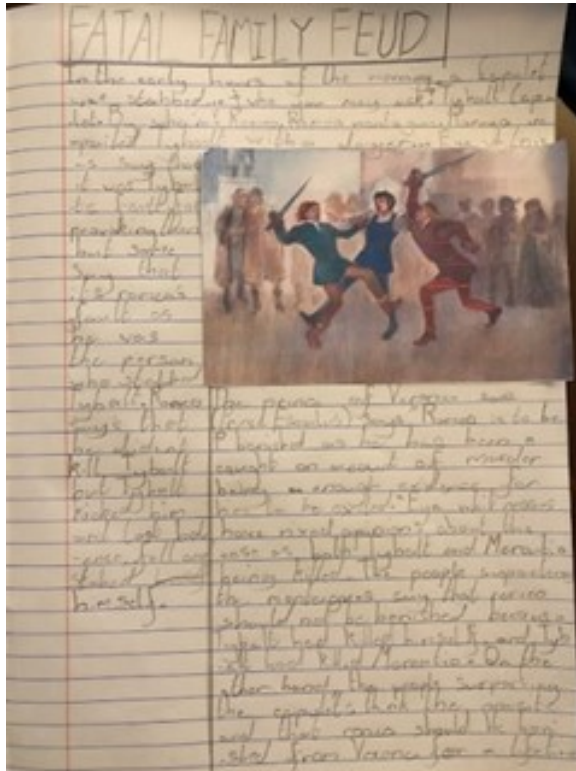
A torn up wasteland with the only water miles away at the bottom of the canyon. Strange formations of rocks casting shadows in the red hot sand. Even the lizards ran for shade. Snakes slither through the scorching sand as the buzzards circle in the sky above.

As the sun sets below the horizon, the shadows grow tall and the colours change. The air begins to cool and the animals gather looking for food. Desert mice emerge from their burrows now the brutal heat of the day has passed.

Darkness falls, billions of stars twinkle high above. Shooting stars fire across the night sky like rockets going to mars. Red rocks now shining silver in the moonlight, the temperature drops like a stone. Nocturnal creatures roam in the silent twilight looking for prey.

By Alex Gray

Our learning in pictures: Year 6



History - 13 January 2021

What does the source tell me?

It tells me the main thing that is happening; that there is going to be a boycott of the bus service run by a company in Bristol. It tells us this is because they won't hire people of colour.

We get a first hand quote from the manager of the bus company showing his opinion in the matter.

What does the source not tell me?

It doesn't tell us much detail for example how many people will be in the boycott or are impacted by the racist rules.

The cutting doesn't say which newspaper (it looks like a newspaper) it is from, or who the reporter is. We are unsure the point of view of the writer. It would be good to know who is expected to read the paper, if it is local to Bristol and what viewpoint the writer has on the situation.

To get a fuller picture I would want to find out what happened next, such as did the boycott work?

The quotes are mostly from the bus company so their point of view is emphasized more, it would be better if the reporter had more interviews to get more views for example of people who had been refused a job.

Friday 15th January 2021



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



Friday 8th January 2021

Help support our local food bank by donating if you can

Without the boxes, packets, and tins of food items regularly donated across the UK, food banks simply wouldn't be able to run. And as food banks face an ever-increasing demand for their services, particularly in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, you can help! At Ashmount, we are hosting Food Bank Friday collections for the Muswell Hill Food Bank, supporting people in our local community.

Please donate these items if you can:

Food items

- ✦ Cereal
- ✦ Soup
- ✦ Pasta
- ✦ Rice
- ✦ Tinned tomatoes/ pasta sauce
- ✦ Lentils, beans and pulses
- ✦ Tinned meat
- ✦ Tinned vegetables
- ✦ Tea/coffee
- ✦ Tinned fruit
- ✦ Biscuits
- ✦ UHT milk
- ✦ Fruit juice

Non food items

- ✦ Toiletries – deodorant, toilet paper, shower gel, shaving gel, shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, tooth paste, hand wipes
- ✦ Household items – laundry liquid detergent, laundry powder, washing up liquid
- ✦ Feminine products – sanitary towels and tampons
- ✦ Baby supplies – nappies, baby wipes and baby food

How to donate

You can drop your donations on any day Monday - Friday. Leave them in the donation box outside the school building near the front office or children can bring them into school.

Each Friday, a member of the school community will take the donations to the food bank.

If you can help, please contact your class rep or email Ashmount Together

ashmountschoolpta@gmail.com

We've set up a
FOOD BANK FRIDAY
COLLECTION POINT
to collect food for our local
food bank this Harvest!

Please donate an item or two
from the list if you can.

**SHOPPING LIST
TOP TEN ITEMS**

- Milk (UHT or powdered)
- Fruit juice (long life)
- Soup
- Pasta sauces
- Tinned sponge pudding
- Tinned tomatoes
- Tinned vegetables
- Cereals
- Tinned rice pudding
- Jam

FOOD BANK FRIDAY

www.trusselltrust.org
f t i trusselltrust

the trussell trust
Stop UK Hunger

Your donations will be going to a local food bank – a registered charity or charitable organisation which is part of the Trussell Trust network. Reg. Charity in England & Wales (1130522) and Scotland (SC044246). Reg. Ltd. Co. in England & Wales (5434524).

MUSWELL HILL FOODBANK