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Message from Mr Reid

I hope you have all survived another week of lockdown! **Thank you** for all the positive feedback regarding Google Classroom.

As staff at school, we have all reflected this week that there is one **crucial element missing**, and that is **feedback** for pupils. I was very conscious at the beginning that I didn't want to create a system that was unmanageable for staff to maintain. We have

had a successful first week learning how to use Google Classroom and feel now is the right time to **introduce teacher feedback**. To explain what is now expected I have created a short video: [Google Classroom Help 24.04.20](#)

We have also detailed in the Google Classroom section of this newsletter the **changes** implemented for next week.


Google Classroom
Update
24.4.20


On a different note, I don't know if any of you have been tracking the **Starlink satellites**? SpaceX launches Starlink satellites in batches of 60 before they gradually rise to a higher orbit and become less visible. The most recent batch was fired into space on April 23.


Starlink is a project that aims to put a "mega constellation" of more than 40,000 satellites into orbit. It's run by SpaceX, a Californian rocket firm bankrolled by tech billionaire Elon Musk. Musk hopes that the Starlink constellation will one day beam super-fast, cheap Wi-Fi to people across the planet. More than 300 satellites have been launched so far, with the network eventually set to reach 12,000, rising to as many as 42,000 in the future.

A good website for tracking when to see the satellites is [Find Starlink](#)—have a look tonight!

Starlink appearances

 **24 APR, 8:58 PM**
(FOR 4 MINS)

 **24 APR, 9:10 PM**
(FOR 6 MINS)

 **25 APR, 4:14 AM**
(FOR 5 MINS)



- **Starlink satellites appear as 'trains' of bright spots**
- **They move a bit like shooting stars across the sky**
- **They're especially bright because of their low orbits**
- **Starlink will one day beam cheap WiFi to people worldwide**

STAR OF THE WEEK



3A — Sia D

Sia has been so busy with school work, doing lots of exercise, creatively making her brother's birthday cake and a model bed from sticks. She also overcame her initial fear of getting her fingers nibbled and helped feed a field of hungry sheep !



3W — Fred K

This is Fred completing the root science experiment. He loved the practical work and easily understood how more roots leads to more absorption of the water using the colourful liquids as an example. He also wrote neatly and concisely about what he learned.



3S — Freddie F

Freddie has been enjoying growing vegetables and has planted 7 varieties, courgette, aubergine and different peas and beans. He is watering them and is watching them grow.



4C — Noah W

Noah is really embracing home-school! He has been learning about our World Map, Capital Cities, French, Fossil Fuels, the Water Cycle, Ancient Egyptians and the Tudors, as well as making clay models of the planets and body organs. He is really proud of his progress with his skateboarding, cycling and piano.



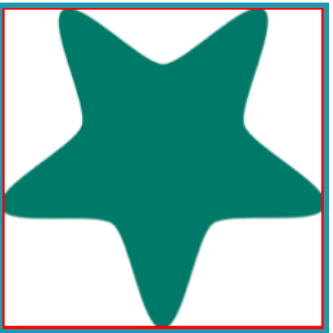
4SF— Diego Q

Diego has done Joe Wicks workout sessions! We turned our garden into an assault course and he found his competitive spirit. He taught his sister footie skills. As a result of this time at home, their friendship and bond has grown and it is beautiful to see.



4W—Daniel A

Daniel has been working hard on all his subjects including the maths challenge (see pic), working on science facts, his Tudor topic and history. He has been busy with his drama and music too. He really enjoys our daily family walks and bike rides, and with his brother, has been making some yummy cookies which we've all appreciated!



5B — Natalie M

Natalie has been really busy in the kitchen, baking cakes and cookies for some of the elderly people in our neighbourhood.



5H— Zoe H

Zoe has been cooking with friends over Zoom, she made her first movie and created a pub with her brother in the playroom, with price list, menus and specials board! She's loving the extra time with her cats too!



5J— James A

James' dog, Gracie, has been the inspiration for a character in this weeks literacy work. He has continued drumming, practiced lacrosse in the sun, washed the car, gardening & has done a jigsaw on Europe.



6A— Izzy E

Izzy has adapted well to lockdown life and has kept very busy. She has been working hard on her school-work and has enjoyed many bike rides, has visited her grandad regularly with food supplies and has enjoyed learning table-tennis in the garden. She has also been enjoying baking and cooking.



6B— Charlie B

Charlie is delighted to be star of the week and has been very good at sticking with the schooling timetable, getting fitter with Joe Wicks and cycles with Daddy! (Much better on the trampoline too).



6P— Caoimhe M

Caoimhe has found a real love for cooking and baking. She has become an independent chef and baker and her chocolate brownies are a triumph. She is keeping up her fitness levels with Joe Wicks workouts, cross country runs and enjoying the great weather in the garden with her sister.



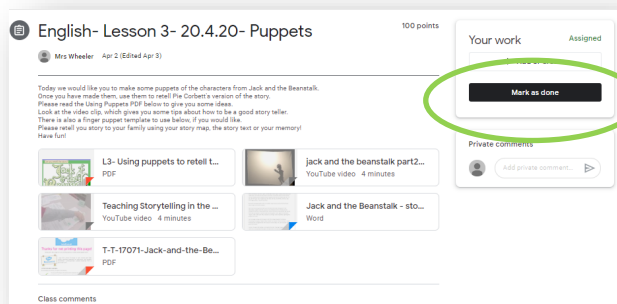
GOOGLE CLASSROOM

CHANGES we are making to Google Classrooms — [Link to Mr Reid's Video again](#)

From the coming week, please can children mark their work as done and upload the one task teachers will clearly indicate. Teachers will also be commenting on work. All parental communication or IT problems should still be done by using the office email address: office@amherst.kent.sch.uk

⇒ Mark as Done — (all lessons, even MyMaths)

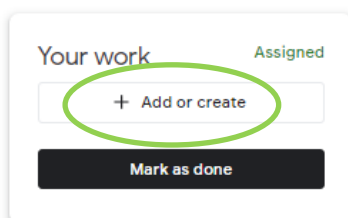
- Once you **open** a lesson on Google Classroom, you can click on the **MARK AS DONE** button



⇒ COMMENTS — teachers will now be able to comment on children's work.

⇒ UPLOADING WORK—

- There is still no requirement to upload all your work
- Teachers will select **ONE TASK a week** that you can now upload via the **+ ADD or CREATE** button



⇒ PARENTAL COMMUNICATION & IT PROBLEMS —

- Please still use the office email address for all other communication: office@amherst.kent.sch.uk



Answers to last week's map challenge - Map 1

Well done to *Ella W* in Year 6 who was the first pupil to return a correct set of answers. Well done to *Mr Clarke* who was the first member of staff to return a correct set of answers in an impressive 26mins!

Answers

- Three
- Oxford
- Noah's Ark (where Mr Reid lived for four years!)
- They're all names of farms on the map
- Austin
- Week and Seven Oaks, since a week has seven days
- A. Warren House; B. Dunstall; C. Steers Hill; D. Tanyard

OTHER

VIRTUAL ORCHESTRA

Well done to **Isla P** who participated in a virtual orchestra this week, playing Led Zeppelin's *Kashmir*. Children can sign up for next week's performance at [Showcase Music School](#).

Some of Mrs da Silva's pupils also joined in with last Friday's doorstep rendition of Beethoven's *Ode to Joy* alongside the National Youth Orchestra. Well done to all these children for taking part in these online initiatives. For children looking to extend their musical learning at home, more suggestions can be found at [Music Home Learning](#).



ASSEMBLY THIS WEEK

Click on the photo to listen to Mr Reid's assembly on **fairness** and a story out of the book **Rescue** - week 20 April 2020.



ACHIEVEMENTS MUSIC EXAM RESULTS

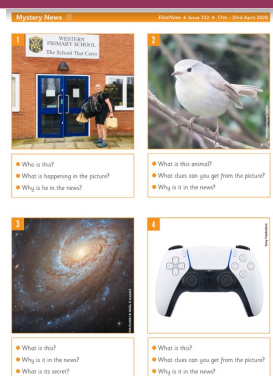
Willow W passed her Grade 1 flute exam with merit.
Gitte M passed her Grade 3 violin exam.
Congratulations to them both!



FIRST NEWS

Your copy **PLUS** Activity sheets this week!

Enjoy this week's copy of the First News under the READING section of your virtual classroom.



MAP 5 — FROM MARY ROSE TO HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH

The main channel into Portsmouth Harbour was dredged in 2017 to accommodate the navy’s newest and biggest warship, HMS Queen Elizabeth. Over three million cubic metres of mud were removed and more than 20,000 items recovered, including eight cannons and a number of cannonballs. A British torpedo, a German sea mine and five large bombs also kept the locals and the Royal Navy’s ordnance disposal team on their toes. Rich in defensive fortifications, both on land and at sea, maps tell the ongoing story of Britain’s history as a seafaring nation. Four sea forts were built outside the entrance to Portsmouth Harbour and Southampton Water as part of a defensive chain known as the Palmerston Forts.

Questions

Easy

- 1. Can you find a place whose name is the same as ‘complain’, but with one letter change?
- 2. Can you find, on the mainland (the top part of the map), a town starting with ‘North’ that is further south than a place starting with ‘South’?

Medium

- 3. How many museums are marked on the Isle of Wight (the bottom part of the map)?
- 4. What’s the difference in value between the highest-numbered A road on the map and lowest-numbered A road?

Tricky

- 5. What do the words ‘north’, ‘hedge’, ‘west’, ‘worlds’ and ‘down’ all have in common?
- 6. How many different animals can you find portrayed on map symbols?

Challenging

- 7. If you were at Nettlestone Point looking due east, and turned southwards until you were facing due south, how many campsites would you have faced towards as you turned?

