



Message from Mr Reid

I hope you have all had a **successful week**. I'm sure you have had a range of days, some productive and some not so. It has been **great to read the positive impact** of teachers providing feedback this week on Google Classroom. Even a short **'Well done' makes a big difference**. It provides the child (and parent) some acknowledgment, which creates a greater sense of value to the work they are completing. Please see the Google Classroom section in this newsletter, detailing **how to view comments left by your teacher** after you have *Marked as Done* an assignment.

Thank you for your continued feedback regarding your experiences using Google Classroom at home. This helps us refine and improve the provision. We must all remember that there is no substitute to the children having tasks explained by their teacher in person! You may have noticed an **increased use of video tutorials**, created by teachers, to try and help explain concepts and tasks.

A change we will make this week, after feedback, is to schedule the following week's **work to appear at 8.00am on Sunday** rather than Monday. We appreciate this will give parents (especially working parents) the chance to plan the week ahead and print any resources needed in advance. Please do not ask the children to start completing the tasks on Sunday!

School remains open every day for children of critical workers. Please be aware that if your class teacher is completing their 2½ day shift, as part of the fortnightly rota, there may be a **delay in the response time** to comments on Google Classroom. Many teachers are managing a juggling act of continuing to teach in school and provide online learning.

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Something to make you smile

On a different note, just before the lock-down began, I visited the Assembly Halls in Tunbridge Wells to watch the Banff Mountain Film Festival Word Tour. This a collection of incredible outdoor and adventurous short films. One that I particularly enjoyed, as a keen mountain biker, was Danny Daycare by Danny MacAskill. I thought you all might enjoy it. Please reinforce this is not to be recreated at home with younger siblings!

[Danny Daycare Video](#)



8 May 2020

Friday 8th May is a Bank Holiday and this will be recognised and acknowledged.

School will be closed that day and no work will be set on Google Classroom.

Have a day off! Please encourage your child to watch Monday's assembly as it explains **why we are** having a Bank Holiday and the significance of 8th May.



STAR OF THE WEEK



3A — Daniel H

Daniel has been busy with his school work. He has enjoyed the pond life in our pond at home, where there are lots of fish and frogs! He has helped his young sister get to know frogs and he has shown her how to hold one.



3W — Victoria C G

Vicky is fully embracing studying and enjoying her daily school activities. She is preparing to become a teacher, helping her little sister Valentina with phonics learning, experiments and creative projects!



3S — Henri S

Henri is so happy to be 'star of the week'! He has been busy painting and reading to his sister. He has also helped his daddy with decorating their new home. Henri has impressed with his division skills and has also produced some beautiful artwork, inspired by Monet's Japanese bridge. Well done!



4C — Stella M

Stella is continuing with school work and enjoying her 'Horrible History' book set. She invented her own 'Coronavirus' from a chemistry set. She has been meditating, cooking and has been taking our dogs out running each day - this is her with Mandan.



4SF— Ella R-J

Ella has been busy working online but she particularly enjoyed writing about and drawing different types of vertebrates.



4W— JJ Hodder

JJ has been busy with crafts this week. He worked very hard to make what he calls his 'Alien grabbing Claw' with one of his Kiwi crate craft kits. He also insisted that his face remain painted as a Zombie for the photo.



5B — Lucas S

Lucas has been working hard on his school tasks. He loved the deforestation project and watched a film about it called 'Before The Flood'. He has been keeping fit by doing online football/fitness sessions. We've all been on lots of local bike rides. He can't wait to come back to school!



5H— William R

William has been working so hard this week, whilst staying super positive and upbeat about doing his work and reading. He is being very kind by including his brother in tasks, playing guitar lots and 'zooming' with friends!



5J— Khloe A

Khloe loves the Greek topic. She painted a Santorini scene, designed a nametag using the Greek Alphabet and baked some Spanakopita (measuring the angles as well). She is thankful for Zoom so she can connect with friends and carry on with her Karate, Jitsu and Spanish classes.



6A— Zainab F

Zainab has been enjoying lots of fun activities like baking and helping with other household chores. She has also learned to ride a bicycle all by herself!



6B— Lara M

This week Lara has been busy re-modelling the unused Wendy house in our garden into a hutch for her rabbit "Chubchub"!



6P— Duncan M

Duncan has been busy planting some bulbs in the flower bed that he and Shawn have dug.



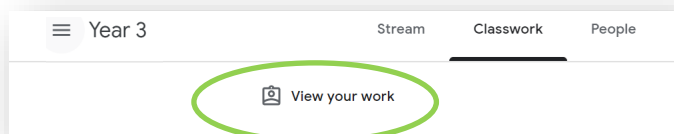
GOOGLE CLASSROOM

CHANGES & TIPS for Google Classrooms this week

⇒ Work will now be scheduled to appear from **8.00am** on Sundays to help parents prepare for the week ahead.

⇒ Teacher **Feedback**

- Please Mark as Done assignments so teachers are able to give you feedback.
- Please also go back to previous tasks to read any feedback given.
- Click on the **View your work** button to access previous comments on assignments.



⇒ **In School we are following Google Classroom**

We are following Google Classroom at school each day with the pupils who are attending. This has been an excellent way to ensure we understand how easy/difficult lessons are to follow and how much support a child needs to complete the task. This is helping us refine and improve Google Classroom provision.



Staff Rota

School is still open every day for children of critical workers. Teams of teachers and TAs (identified as being low risk) are working for 2 ½ days, every two weeks. Please be aware that there may be less feedback on Google Classroom by your classteacher during that period, as they are teaching full time in school.

Kent Test Year 5 & Parents' Evening

We understand for Year 5 parents the current school closure has a particular significance and stress factor.

Regarding Year 5 parents' consultation, these were planned for 17th and 18th June. Until we have a clear idea of when schools will reopen, we do not want to commit to a change in format at this stage.

Regarding the Kent Test, we are waiting for guidance on any changes to the current system. If we receive any confirmed changes from KCC, we will communicate them immediately to all Year 5 parents.

We hope that helps to reassure you and answer your questions.



Answers to last week's map challenge - Map 5

No answers submitted this week but well done to Miss Holland who was the first member of staff to submit a correct set of answers. Miss Holland 2 - Mr Clarke 1!

Answers

1. Cowplain
2. North End is south of Southwick
3. Twelve
4. 3,053 (A3056 - A3)
5. They all precede the word 'end' in a place name on the map
6. Five: duck, fish, horse (in the fairground symbol), elephant & deer (head with antlers)
7. Three

OTHER



SEE IF YOU CAN FIND
THE FOLLOWING
WORDS:

FAIRNESS

KINDNESS

COOPERATION

TRUST

DETERMINATION

POLITENESS

Amherst School Values

S S E N E T I L O P D S
J X N G Q J O Y L N R S
C O O P E R A T I O N E
T K A G H J X P Q H P N
K R F A I R N E S S P D
M W U E W Y R K L Y Z N
X A G S H Q C J V N D I
G R W T T Y K N M U T K

FIRST NEWS

Your copy & activity sheets this
week!

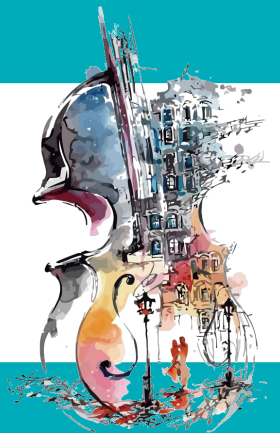
Enjoy this week's copy of the First News under the
READING section of your google classroom.



MUSIC EXAM RESULTS

Ella W passed her grade 4 cello exam with distinction.

CONGRATULATIONS!



ASSEMBLY THIS WEEK



Click on the photo to listen to Mr
Reid's assembly of this week -
Monday 27 April 2020.

MAP 26— DON'T MISS YOUR EXIT

The first and original ‘spaghetti junction’ on the M6 at Birmingham was so nicknamed in an article about the new motorway in the *Birmingham Evening Mail* on 1 June 1965. The junction only covers 1 kilometre of the M6 motorway but has 4km of slip roads. The map only hints at the complexity of roads on five different levels with 559 concrete columns, some reaching a height of 24m. Over 21km of carriageway were elevated to accommodate the existing canal, river and railway lines. Columns that came close to the canal had to be positioned so that a horse could still use the towpath beside the water.

Questions

Easy

- 1. Which road shares its name with a famous London recording studio?
- 2. Which park neighbours an area with multiple streets named after ducks?

Medium

- 3. How many times does the number ‘6’ appear on the map as an individual digit (i.e. not as part of a larger number)?
- 4. Which word completes all three of these street names: Place, Road and Approach?

Tricky

- 5. Which road shares its name with a Monopoly board property?
- 6. Which locations on the map sound like the following?

- A. Domesticated waterway
- B. Path over a noisy bird

Challenging

- 7. Which road on the map shares its name with a four-term UK prime minister?

