Empower Trust

Inspire to Achieve

Issue 5 Spring Term 2020



From Ian Nurser, Chief Executive Officer

As we look forward to finally welcoming all children back to school in September, we'd like to highlight in this Newsletter some of the amazing work going on during the enforced partial school closures, both at school and at home, including some fantastic competition successes! There are also some great examples of school activities just prior to the coronavirus outbreak.

All Trust schools have been continuously open since the government announced school closures on 23rd March, providing child care for vulnerable children and children of key workers, home learning activities for all children and providing free school meals. From 1st June, schools also welcomed back Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to all Empower Trust's staff for their commitment, an amazing effort in difficult circumstances.

I would also like to thank the children for engaging so well with their home learning tasks, and also their parents for continuing to support them so well. The past few months have been extremely challenging for families, particularly for those with children who have been unable to return to school or to meet their friends.

I would also like to thank parents for their patience regarding the uncertainty of knowing when their children will be allowed to return to school. Headteachers have worked really hard to keep parents informed about their plans. As schools do not get any advance notice of government statements they have to act swiftly in response to daily announcements of policy changes.

All Trust schools are currently making preparations to welcome all of their children back to school in September. Be assured that ensuring the safety and welfare of the children remains the key priority for all Empower Trust staff. To ensure schools could open safely Empower Trust have already provided all schools with Perspex screens, hand sanitiser stations, signage, additional cleaning materials, and PPE. I know that the teachers and school staff are really looking forward to working with their new classes.

Mr Tim Hayward, Headteacher of Market Drayton Junior School, and Mrs Cathy Rutherford, Headteacher of Woodfield Infant School are leaving us at the end of term. Mr Hayward has decided to retire after a long and successful career in education, and Mrs Rutherford will be starting a new role as Senior Lecturer in Primary Education at Staffordshire University. On behalf of everyone at Empower Trust, I would like to thank them both for everything they have done for the children and schools and to wish Mr Hayward and his family every happiness in the future, and Mrs Rutherford every success in her exciting new role.

Finally, I hope that the children, parents and all Trust staff have a relaxing and restful summer holiday. Schools only come to life when the children are there. We can't wait to see them all again!

Ian Nurser
Chief Executive Officer

Empower Trust
Inspire to Achieve

Trust Champions - PPE Production Line

Huge thanks go to Julie Wylie and Doreen Wardlaw who have been busy making face masks for Trust staff.







Julie and Doreen, both support staff at Market Drayton Infant School, have put their sewing skills to good use and have hand made over 40 cotton face masks for each of our 8 schools within the Trust. That's over 320 face masks in total!

Thanks also to all Trust staff who have very kindly donated fabrics and materials towards the production of the face masks.

Market Drayton Infant & Nursery School

Reception Pods



The children in reception pods are settling well. They have spent time talking about how they are feeling and have been doing some mindfulness activities, including drawing pictures and singing songs. The children have been exploring the outdoors and started to find out about plants. They have also been learning how to skip – they were very proud of themselves.



Longlands Nursery

The children at Longlands Nursery have settled back into school well and are beginning to understand the changes in the environment. They have enjoyed exploring the outside area with the friends they have missed





Year 2 Key Worker Children

The children have enjoyed their free time on the field playing football. The girls decided to play a different match to the boys! It has been great to get outside. Music fun!On seesaw the children watched a video about using scrap items to create their own band. The children had a go at creating their own band using straws, paper plates and elastic bands. We had some great harmonicas and guitars made!



Lockdown Learning

During school closure the children at St Peter's took on the challenge of home learning with great enthusiasm and creativity.

Using the online learning platform 'Seesaw' they were able to interact with their teachers and show them all the excellent work that they had been doing at home each week.









The challenges the teachers had set included lots of exciting practical work to help the children to learn and remember the key facts within each topic or theme.

There were some very unique creations made, including this very colourful Mayan head dress.



Each week, examples of work were posted on our school website and in the weekly newsletter so that we could all see what everyone was up to!

If you'd like to see more then please go to our website www.stpetersschoolwem.org.uk



BACK to SCHOOL

CE PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL WEM

ST PETER'S

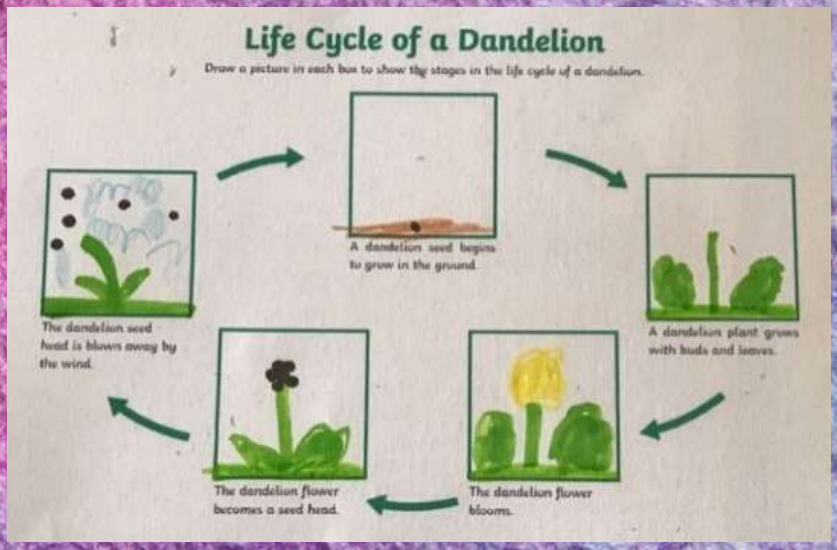
Lockdown Learning













my flying machine is like a hot air balloon inspired by my favourite actress from Descendants.

it will fly by hot air, i learnt that hot air rises becoming hotter han the air outside which causes it to rise.



It will be coloured in all shades of purple







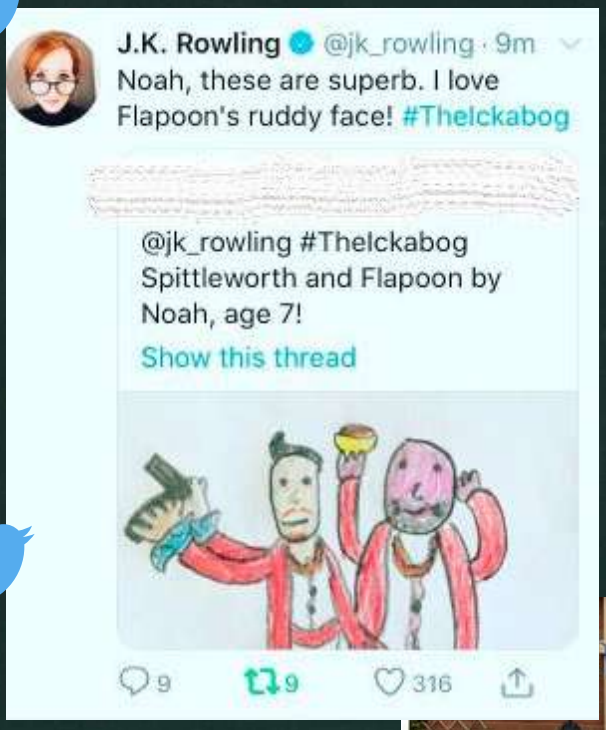
BACK to SCHOOL

CE PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL WEM

ST PETER'S

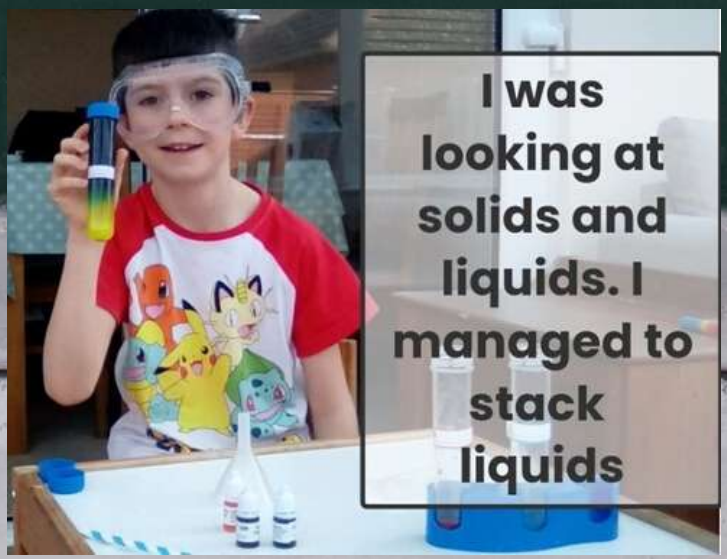
Lockdown Learning

Well done to Noah in Y3 who tweeted his work and had a response from JK Rowling!

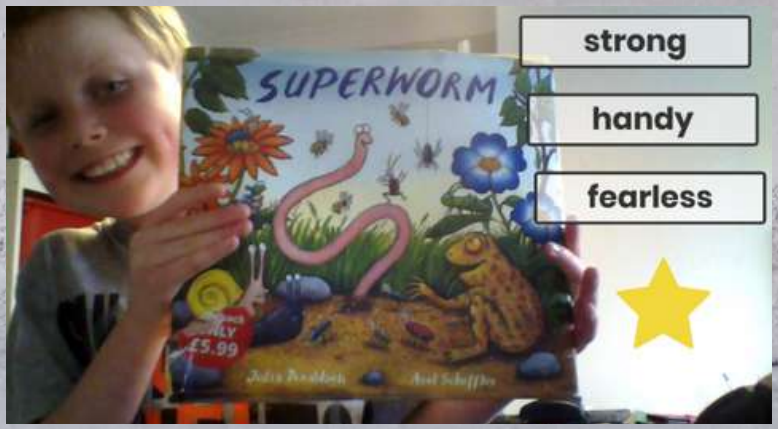














CE PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL WEM

ST PETER'S

Lockdown Learning









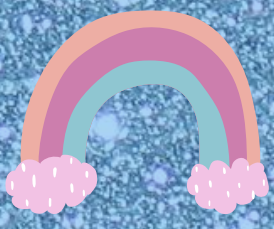










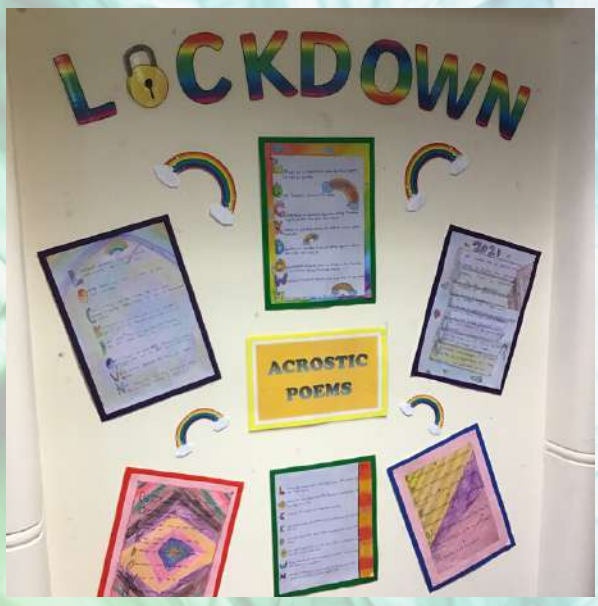




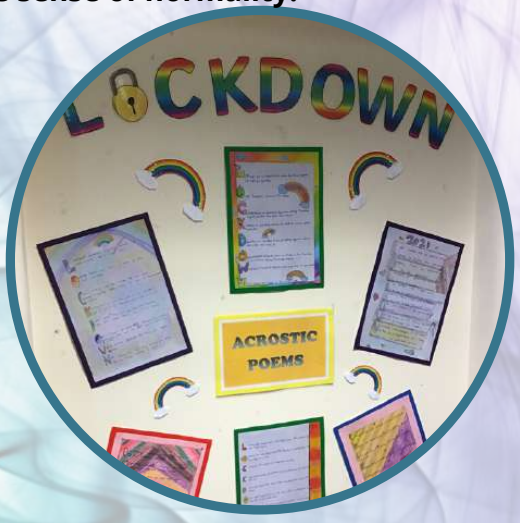
What i like to play with my family:
- Jenga
- Battle ship
- Country and town
- Old maid
- Scrabble
- Greedy Granny

MARKET DRAYTON JUNIOR SCHOOL

Back to School



Our Year 6 children have had a seamless return to school thanks to the very thorough 'all-eventualities-plan' drawn up by our leaders!From day one, the children were calm, sensible and very happy to be back! They enjoyed reflecting on and talking about their own experiences of this crazy time and there was an overwhelming sense of relief as they pushed us back to some sense of normality.



They approached our new routines with care and maturity.They wowed us with their creative writing in week one, reminded themselves of their talents and skills! In maths, some children have even asked for the return of our Friday Arithmetic test!



We are looking at Europe in the afternoons - from looking at how the landscape of Europe has changed over time, to researching famous European artists and landmarks.

We have also taken part in world Oceans day and watched the NSPCC assembly to address any issues the children may have regarding our current situation. All in just over one week!



We have also enjoyed being able to reflect on current news stories and try and make sense of the world around us.As new children have rejoined over the two weeks they have welcomed them and explained all of our new routines, leaving us feeling quite redundant (but lovely to see!)



Congratulations

MARKET DRAYTON JUNIOR SCHOOL



Before the lockdown began, Year 6 children took part in the arts competition segment of the Bookfest awards, a Shropshire-wide celebration of top authors.

The children sped through the six books on the shortlist, and we are delighted to report we produced both the winner and the runner-up in the art competition (Weronika Felinska and Amber Lowry respectively.

They both had a socially distanced visit from organiser Joanna Hughes, who presented them with art kits and their framed winning entries.

The story was featured in the Shropshire Star and you can read more here https://www.shropshirestar.com/news/local-hubs/north-shropshire/market-drayton/2020/06/26/market-drayton-pupils-continue-winning-in-art-and-writing-competitions/

During lockdown we also encouraged Year 5 and Year 6 pupils to enter a story-writing competition in association with Button & Bear bookshop in Shrewsbury (now closed) and the University of Nottingham.

The premise was to research historic Shropshire place names to work them into stories, and Charlie Flynn from 6GC won the contest with his story 'The Goblin of Pontesbury', bagging a selection of books for himself and the school from Button & Bear.

Year 5 teacher Charlotte Jenkins, who organised the competition, said: "It was lovely to see the children so engaged at such a tricky time. We couldn't believe the selection of books Charlie and the school received as a prize. It is such a loss to Shrewsbury to lose Button & Bear, I've visited the shop many times and have lovely memories of taking my daughter for activity sessions and to meet authors – she even met Julia Donaldson! We would like to thank them for their involvement in this competition."

Charlie's competition winning story was read by Charlotte Jenkins on BBC Radio Shropshire. Please follow the link to hear it!

https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p08h5rtb



MARKET DRAYTON JUNIOR SCHOOL

Congratulations



Congratulations to another of our Year 6 students, Jake Talbot, who came second in a competition in conjunction with Staffordshire University.

Jake spent his lockdown designing, planning and building a sustainable bird box from reclaimed material from around his house.

The design brief was to 'Help sustain our wildlife and halt the loss of biodiversity on the planet'.

On hearing the news, Jake said: "I was very pleased to hear the news that I had come second place, as I see lots of different birds in my garden and now the ones in my garden will have a new home to stay in. In the near future, I am hoping to make some more and sell them."

The story was featured in the Shropshire Star and you can read more here https://www.shropshirestar.com/news/local-hubs/north-shropshire/market-drayton/2020/07/04/jakes-homemade-bird-box-impresses-in-sustainability-competition/



ST GEORGE'S JUNIOR SCHOOL
SHREWSBURY

Since returning to school, year 6 have taken a thematic approach to learning. Using the book Kensuke's Kingdom, we have used skills from across the curriculum: art, maths, literacy and geography.





Art

We used the front cover of the book as inspiration for our watercolour work. We learnt about the contrasting colours used in the painting of the 'Great Wave' by Hokusai, and recreated our own versions of the wave. In the background of this painting is the Mt Fuji. Hokusai created 36 images of Mt Fuji as 'series of images'. Looking at colour, text, tone and perspective, we created our ownmountain painting in Hokusai's style.





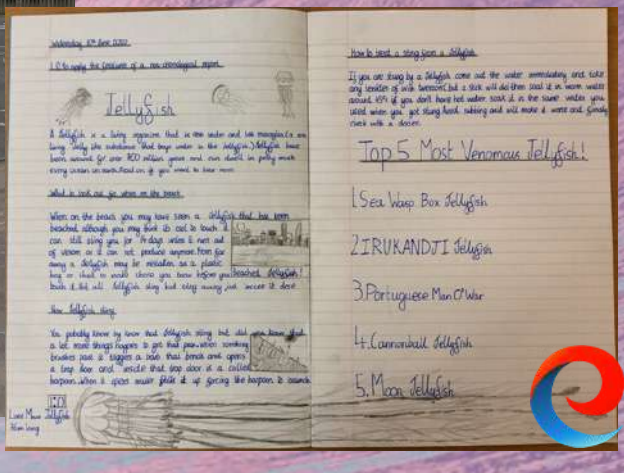
Maths

After reading about Michael's encounter with jellyfish, we researched them, finding out all about the different types and sizes. We found out that the lion's mane is the biggest jellyfish measuring 36.5m long, and the smallest jelly fish (also the most venomous) is the box jellyfish measuring just 1cm. We drew these to scale on our school playground.







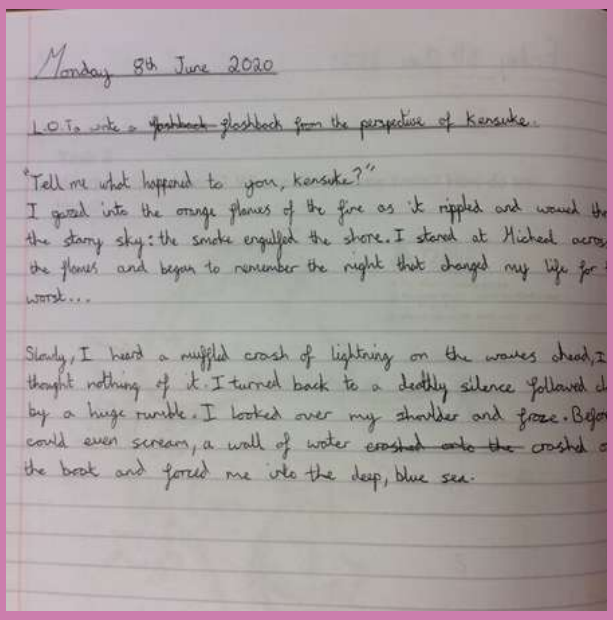




ST GEORGE'S JUNIOR SCHOOL
SHREWSBURY

Literacy

The book has created many fiction and non-fiction writing opportunities: flashbacks, diary entries, travel brochures, instructions and non-chronological reports are just a few of the texts we have created so far.

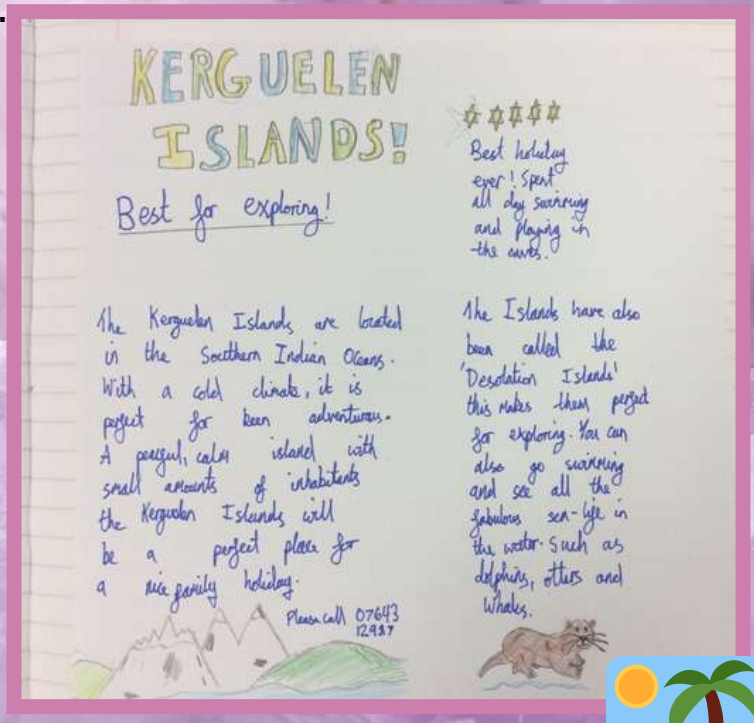


Monday 8th June 2020

LO To write a ~~flashback~~ flashback from the perspective of Kensuke.

"Tell me what happened to you, Kensuke?"
I gazed into the orange flames of the fire as it rippled and waved the the starry sky: the smoke engulfed the shore. I stared at Michael across the flames and began to remember the night that changed my life for worst...

Slowly, I heard a muffled crash of lightning on the waves ahead, I thought nothing of it. I turned back to a deathly silence followed by a huge rumble. I looked over my shoulder and froze. Before could even scream, a wall of water ~~crashed onto the~~ crashed the boat and forced me into the deep, blue sea.



KERGUELEN ISLANDS!

Best for exploring!

☆☆☆☆☆
Best holiday ever! I spent all day swimming and playing in the caves.

The Kerguelen Islands are located in the Southern Indian Oceans. With a cold climate, it is perfect for keen adventurers. A peaceful, calm island with small amounts of inhabitants the Kerguelen Islands will be a perfect place for a nice family holiday.

Please call 07643 12437

The Islands have also been called the 'Desolation Islands' this makes them perfect for exploring. You can also go swimming and see all the fabulous sea-life in the water. Such as dolphins, otters and whales.

Geography

Using digital maps, we located and plotted the journey around the world that Michael took on his journey in the book, locating the islands and creating a brochure for one of the many islands that he could have washed up on.





BACK to SCHOOL

ST GEORGE'S JUNIOR SCHOOL

SHREWSBURY











St. George's Junior School pupils putting out bird feeders for the local wildlife.



Greenacres Primary School



Welcome Back!

We were delighted to finally welcome back children into Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y6 to add to the children already attending since 'lockdown' began. The preparations for further opening have taken several weeks, with risk assessments to be completed, furniture to be moved, lines to be painted, tape to be stuck down and cleaning rotas to be increased, and so it was good to see that this has finally enabled children to return safely to school.

Of course, the situation for schools remains changeable, with updates and changes to plans being frequent, but, as usual, schools including Greenacres have adapted and done what they can to enable as many children as possible to return while following the detailed guidance provided.

Numbers of children attending have gradually increased in all the 'bubbles' and it is pleasing to hear the children on the playgrounds again, albeit spread out. The new arrangements mean that children in a bubble enjoy lunch brought to their room, exclusive toilet facilities, more space and smaller classes

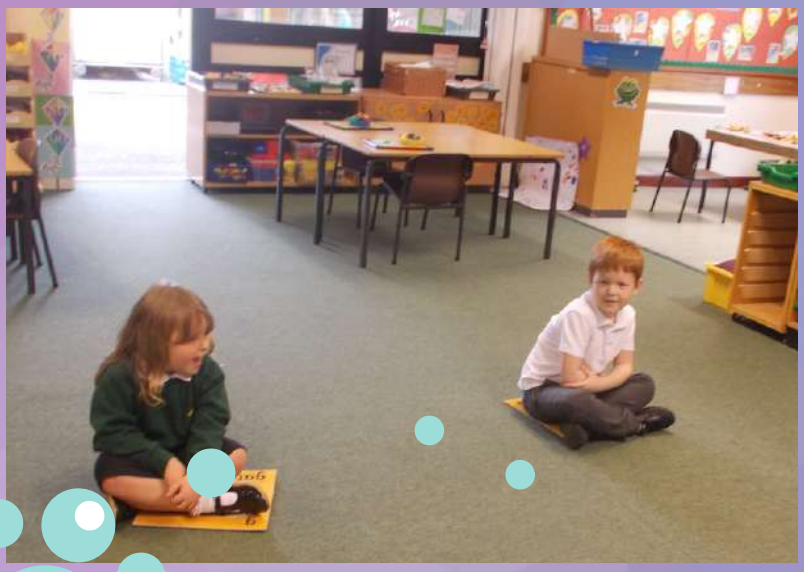




Looking Ahead

During the partial closure of the school we have been able to use the opportunity to have some major improvement works carried out while parts of the building were unused. The children and staff have, therefore, benefitted from a wholesale ICT upgrade throughout the school which puts us in an ideal position going forward, and with each of our Y6 able to have exclusive use of a new laptop each between now and the end of the term.

This major investment by Empower Trust will allow us to develop further the online learning capability across the school which has suddenly become so necessary during the recent weeks.



Free School Meals

We have provided freshly cooked free school meals to those children attending school since the 'lockdown' began and also provided food parcels to families every Monday, approximately 70 per week.

By providing parcels we have been able to increase the amount of contact we maintain with families as we can briefly chat at a distance while they collect or we deliver. It also makes it slightly easier for families who find it a challenge to shop at supermarkets under the restrictions as we provide some of the basics that they need and enjoy.

However, the announcement that the funding of free meals will now continue over the six-week holiday means that we will be venturing into the voucher scheme to ensure that our families do not miss out. We would like to thank Shire Services for their help with the parcels and our own staff for all the contacting of families and also the delivering of the parcels. We would also like to thank the food hub for all their hard work in providing a wide range of food items (and even flowers) to support all of our families over the past weeks.

Royal Academy of Arts Young Artists' Summer Show Entries







Market Drayton Junior School

Sports Round Up

Gymnastics

The year 3 gymnastics team recently progressed to the level 3 School Games competition where they finished in 2nd place, on 3rd March. This is a huge achievement as we have never had a gymnastics team reach this level before. A huge congratulations and well done to them all!







Cross Country

We took two girls (one year 3 and one year 4) to compete in the level 3 School Games cross country event in Shrewsbury on 10th March. They both finished in good positions whilst representing North Shropshire.

This is the first time in School Games history,that we have had this many children representing our school at level 3.
Well done girls!



Football

The Under 9 football team recently played at Shrewsbury Sports Village in the semi-finals of the Under 9 Trophy. The children had to participate in 5 matches. They played really well; showing determination and a good teamspirit to win one match and to draw another. Well done to all the children and thanks to the parents for their support too.

MUSIC MARK ACCREDITATION

We are delighted that MDJS has recently been awarded the Gold Mark for Excellence in Music Provision within school!

A huge congratulations to all those who have made this possible. We have had an exciting year in music so far and can't wait for our upcoming talent show next term. Keep up the practise and rehearsals everyone!

Market Drayton Infant & Nursery School

World Book Day

A collection of some of the fantastic characters we saw in school on Thursday 5th March













Fire Class Book Swap

Fire Class have started the book swap this week. Children are invited to bring in unwanted books from home to exchange in class.



Market Drayton Infant & Nursery School

Year 1 as Geographers



Pupils in year 1 love being able to explore their local area as geographers! Recently they have been focusing on human and physical features of their local area and beyond. They have been inspired by using atlases and and world maps to identify the main human features of India and compare the similarities and differences to their local town.

Later in the year they will be visiting Llandundo to make further comparisons. They were particularity fond of exploring the physical features of Market Drayton as they learnt lots of new vocabulary such as marsh land and meanders! Whilst they were out on their visit the children enjoyed a game of 'Pooh Sticks' to discuss the direction and speed of the river and of course to see who's stick won!Lots of children are excited to revisit these features again with their grown-ups at home to take their learning even further!

Jackfield Tile Museum Visit

In January the children visited Jackfield Tile Museum. Here they were able to use knowledge and skills, gained in art, to design and make beautiful sunflower-inspired tiles.

First the children drew their designs onto paper and then used carbon paper to trace these onto the tiles. Next came the difficult bit- choosing the colours. In the pots, all the colours looked muted and drab so it was difficult to imagine what they would change into during firing. The children used the colour charts to choose their favourites and then got on with the painting. Because clay is so porous, the paint soaks in very quickly. This was a surprise to many but soon all the children became proficient at dipping and dabbing.

A few weeks after the visit, the tiles were delivered back to us and how amazing they look!As part of the trip to the Ironbridge Gorge, the Year 2 children visited Enginuity, Here they had great fun exploring a wide range of science-based activities exploring forces, electricity and materials. One of the favourite activities was bridge building, however, no-one managed to get their bridge to stay up for very long!



Market Drayton Infant & Nursery School

Talking the Big Talk

This term has seen the beginning of the Nursery 'Talking the Big Talk' parent lunches. This is where parents/carers are invited in to school for lunch with their child, but prior to that will have a theory session on what and how their children are taught in setting and then they get to work with their child so they can see a session in practise.

The session has two aims, the first is to enable parents to understand the important of communication and early intervention, including speech and language development and how to build essential listening skills. Secondly, how communication and language impacts early mark making and writing as they develop. Lots of ideas are shared as to how children can be supported at home and then a 'Little Big Talk' session is carried out with the children.









The focus of this session was the story 'A Squash and a Squeeze' by Julia Donaldson. The children were really confident in using vocabulary and ensuring they used good sentence structure and were further challenged in using a conjunction in the sentence. Parents and carers acted as talk partners on this occasion and helped their children think of lots of synonyms for 'tiny'.

The children then had a practical activity that enabled them to practise using the learnt vocabulary 'tiny'. They had to make their own play dough and use their fine motor skills to make a series of mini models, making a sentence for each, extending sentences using the conjunction 'and'. Everyone had a fantastic time, children and parents/carers enjoyed the





British Science Week

Every week in school is a science week but the school still celebrated 'British Science Week' in March and had some special activities going on. The week started with an assembly from Fizz Pop Science. The children saw lots of amazing things happen with bubbles. Fizz Pop Science will be running an after school club open to children in Year One and Year Two after Easter.

On Friday 'Science Boffins' visited school. All children enjoyed an assembly and the children in Year One and Two took part in a workshop. They had great fun and learnt lots of fun things about science.

Market Drayton Infant & Nursery School

Health & Wellbeing Board delighted to support school's Wellbeing Award

Kerry Simmons, Deputy Headteacher of Market Drayton Infant and Nursery School and Ros Jagoe, School Nurse, brought a paper to Shropshire's Health and Wellbeing Board recently, which detailed the school's Wellbeing Award.The Board is delighted to have been able to facilitate this.

At the meeting Kerry Simmons and Ros Jagoe explained the school had decided to complete the award, as wellbeing was a main focus on the School Improvement Plan, and because there is full commitment to promoting and protecting the emotional wellbeing and mental health of the whole school community.

An informative presentation was given, which explained: background to the project, how the impact so far was demonstrating increasing levels of children and staff satisfaction, the importance of parental involvement and what had been done, the role of staff wellbeing, and building resilience for children as well as staff.This was warmly received by Board members and generated much discussion and interest, and the Board wished every success for completion of the award at the end of the Spring Term.

Lee Chapman, co-chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, and Shropshire Council's Cabinet member for organisational transformation and digital infrastructure, said:"It is always encouraging to hear about proactive health and wellbeing work happening in our communities, especially in schools. The Board was impressed by the energy, enthusiasm and commitment Market Drayton Infant and Nursery School has demonstrated with this award, and we were pleased to support this work through the paper being brought to the meeting".

Sam Scott, Headteacher, said:"The award has enabled our school to be clear about how we can adapt our existing working practices to ensure all stakeholders feel confident enough to talk about their own wellbeing. There has been a change team within the school to drive the work forward, and over the last 12 months we have seen a positive impact for children, families and staff. Reducing the stigma of mental health and enabling all parties to be open and honest can only raise the wellbeing of the staff and, over time, children's academic abilities. Getting wellbeing right and having a good understanding of this is key to the aims of our school."



One of the school's favourite additions is the school dog, Roly

WAS In partnership with ncb National Children's Bureau Wellbeing Award for Schools



Market Drayton Junior School

World Book Day

Once again we celebrated World Book Day on 5th March, with the tradition of The Great Bedtime Story. Thank you to all parents who supported children in coming in their pyjamas and sharing their stories!



The Great Book Swap was another success this year with lots for children leaving for home with new reading material!

A visit from author Misha Herwin also added to the day, with the Year 3 children taking part in story workshops with her during the day.

We will carry on with our love of reading at the Annual Book Fair, Monday 23rd- Thursday 26th March. Remember to complete your 10 reads between Thursday 5th – Thursday 19th March to be in the draw for a £5 voucher to spend at the Fair.



National Literacy Trust statistics state that only 29% of Under 18s read daily. With your support we are working hard to buck the trend and develop a new generation of readers!

Year 3 Colourdome

On Tuesday 25th February, we welcomed the Colourdome into school, to launch this half term's Science focus on light. The Colourdome is part of the educational outreach programme at Techniquest, Glyndwr.

The Colourdome allowed the children to enter another world inside an inflatable planetarium. The children were able to experience the various aspects of light in interactive activities. In the dark environment, the children experienced the various properties of light and saw how light travels in straight lines. The Colourdome was a perfect launch pad for the work sue to be covered in class this term.

Dogs Trust Visit



This term Dogs Trust came in to speak to the classes about caring for dogs and dog safety.

The children loved the sessions and one child was chosen from numerous willing volunteers to dress up as a dog!

The other children were then given an opportunity to put their newly learned training skills into action!

World Book Day - Thursday 5th March

The whole school had fun dressing up as our favourite book characters for World Book Day - see if you can spot some familiar characters ..





ST GEORGE'S JUNIOR SCHOOL
SHREWSBURY

Year 4 Design & Technology

Year 4 have been studying the design process of smoothie making., beginning with taste tests and evaluating what products are already on the market. We compared the texture, taste, smell, flavour and packaging. We discovered the different fruits and vegetables that were included and even found some fruits that we didn't know we liked!

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Year 4 Geography



As Geographers we have been looking at different types of maps. We used atlases to locate Shropshire and Shrewsbury and then looked at some Ordnance Survey maps.

We discussed what the different symbols meant and how contour lines are important to help us understand the slope of the land.

We learnt the difference between human and physical geographical features and then labelled the ones we could find on an Ordnance Survey map of Shrewsbury.



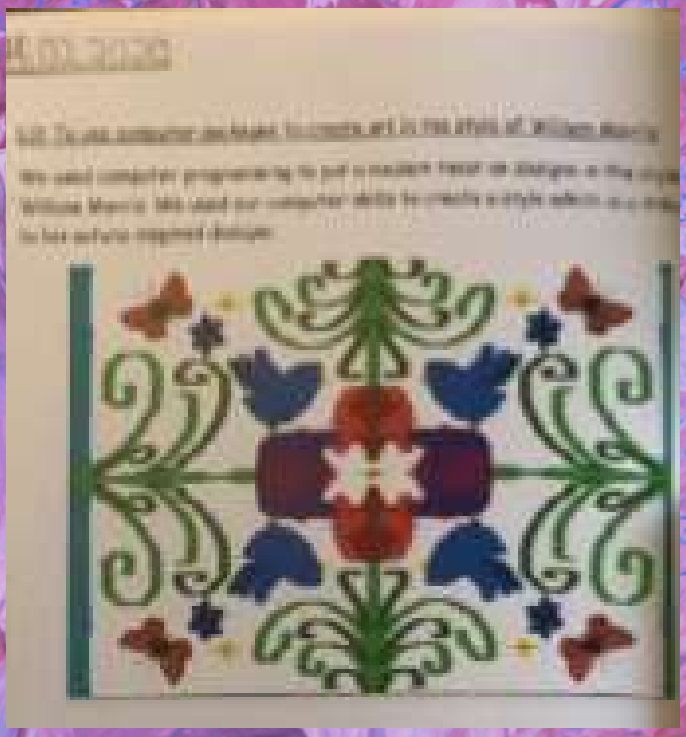
ST GEORGE'S JUNIOR SCHOOL
SHREWSBURY

Year 6 Art

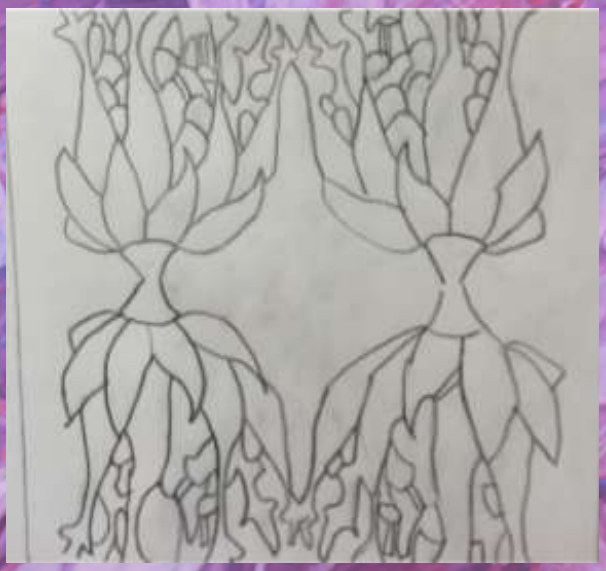
Contemporary William Morris Wall Paper Design

Year 6 have been using different mediums to create their own tile designs in the style of the famous artist, .William Morris. Pupils used computer programming to design a William Morris inspired tile but included a modern twist. Pupils also experimented with stencils, rotations, flipping, printing, tessellating and reflecting the tile deigns which they had etched themselves to create a wallpaper









Our Values



EMPOWERMENT

We actively promote opportunities for every child, adult and school to influence their own practice and future.



AMBITION

We encourage and support every child, adult and school to aim high to achieve their aspirations.



COLLABORATION

We work together to support everyone to achieve their aims.



POSITIVITY

We adopt a 'can do' attitude and an optimistic approach.



RESPECT

We are thoughtful and considerate to ourselves, others and the environment.



INTEGRITY

We are honest, transparent and fair in everything we do.

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