

Message from Mr Broad

Dear Parents and Carers,



We are two weeks into term and what an extraordinary term it has been so far – things can only get better!

We appear to have all settled and adjusted to this second school closure remarkably quickly and I am pleased to hear that staff are managing to deliver high quality learning and support both at school and to all of our pupils at home. I understand how difficult this is for many parents who are having to work from home and look after their children at the same time. Similarly, I know how stressful it can be for staff who are delivering live lessons, often with difficult home circumstances to deal with themselves. As happened during the first lockdown, I am sure that the mutual empathy and understanding which thrives amongst our community will get us through this again and we all look forward to brighter months ahead.

Staff are planning learning each week such that children receive a blended approach to remote learning. Live lessons via Zoom are very helpful but it is important to understand that they are only a part of our approach. Many children find it hard to concentrate for the duration of a live lesson through this medium and we are also conscious of screen time and the need for children to be able to engage in creativity, problem solving, research and physical activity. A detailed outline of our remote learning offer can be found on the school website. As ever, please contact your child's phase leader via email if you have any queries or concerns.

In better news, I was contacted yesterday by Councillor Mann who informs me that he has now funded a second VAS (Vehicle Activated Sign) to be installed outside school in the week beginning 1st February. This means we will have a sign facing in each direction, which will alert drivers to the speed limit and make our children much safer. Rather bizarrely, we will still be required to rotate each sign regularly, in order to trigger their temporary status since permanent signage of this kind is not permitted. I promise I'm not making this up! I am very grateful to Councillor Mann and this will make a big difference.

You may be aware that fresh guidance was issued to schools on 5th and 7th January and this was updated and released again just yesterday. The most recent guidance for parents and carers was released on 8th January and, for those of you who have not seen it, you can follow this link: [**What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges**](#)

In the guidance released on 5th January, schools with nurseries were given discretion about whether to fully open – our nursery has been open since 5th January for vulnerable pupils and those of critical workers. However, the latest guidance says that nurseries should be open for all parents who require a space. We are currently surveying our nursery parents to see what demand may be like; please note that this survey will expire at 5.00 p.m. tonight. We will struggle to open our Nursery fully, whilst still providing our current level of provision in EYFS for those children in school and at home due to the additional staff we would need in school to manage the tight adult/pupil ratios required. However, we will do all we can to offer places to those parents who indicate on the survey that they require a space. We will move quickly on the results of this survey in the hope that we can offer places from the middle of next week.

I would like to finish by thanking you for your continued support, patience and understanding – it really is appreciated during these troubling times.

Please keep safe!



Sporting Influence

Please click on the link below to take you to a fantastic worksheet of fun activities that Sporting has put together for all the children and adults to have a go at.

There is a focus on positive messages and helpful Wellness tips throughout. There will be an update on a weekly basis during lock down.

Please click [here](#)



Information on the Website for Covid 19 & Remote Learning

There is a Covid 19 Information page on the school website that has been updated to include a section for Remote Learning, timetables and resources.

This will be kept up to date for parents' information. Please click on the link below

<https://western.n-yorks.sch.uk/for-parents/covid-19-information/>

[covid reopening information - Western Primary School](#)

This page will provide you with all our Covid 19 related information. Any information we have emailed to you is included in our downloads section below.

western.n-yorks.sch.uk

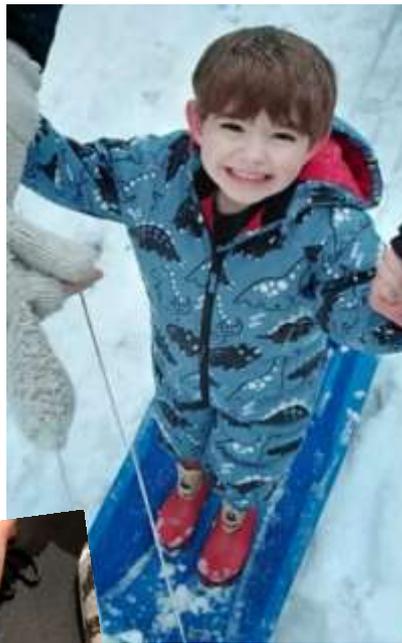
The children have been making polar bear faces and painting them, fishing for numbered fish, feeding fish to the penguins, finding the arctic animals in the sparkly water, pretending to be penguins and mark-making in the frost and ice outside.



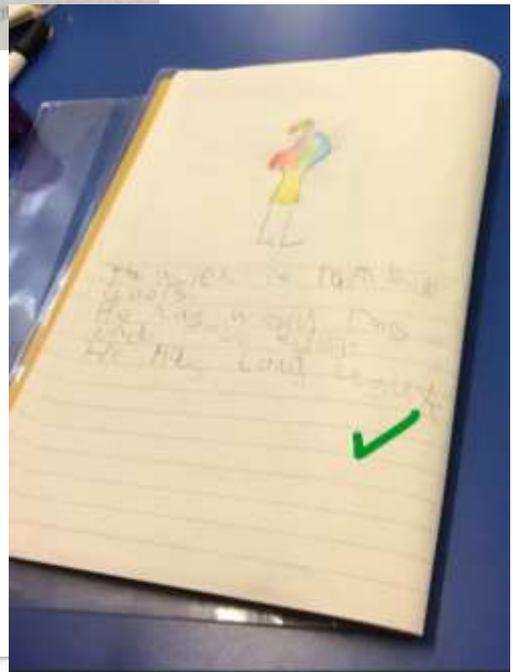
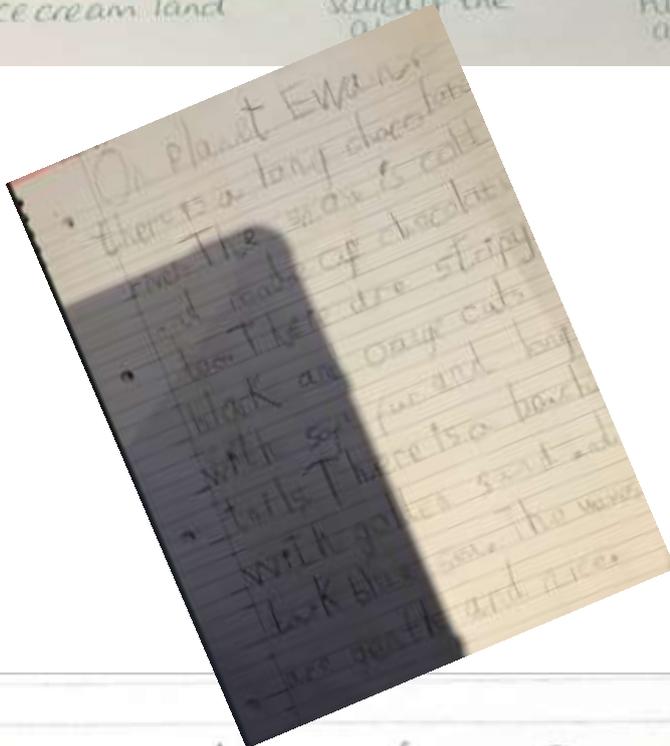
We have had a lot of fun enjoying the snowy weather and have been sledging, building snowmen and finding the heaviest snowball! We have continued to learn about Arctic animals and have enjoyed making and drawing them.

In Maths we have been learning about weight. We have ordered objects from lightest to heaviest, found heavy and light items at home and have tried out our scales when baking!

What a busy week!



Y1 are learning all about space this half term, and this week we have been writing our own endings to a space-based story. We have been zooming into space, meeting an alien friend, and visiting different planets. We have done some fabulous sequencing, character descriptions and setting descriptions, ready to bring them all together for some story writing on Friday. We have loved hearing all their amazing imaginations come to life. Well done Y1!



The alien is funny!
The alien is kind because
she helped them fix a
rocket.
She was green and
scaly.
She is huge, bigger than a
cat.

This week in geography in Y2, as part of our 'Could I survive an expedition' topic, we've been exploring where food comes from. An advantage of being at home is that the children were able to explore their fridges and cupboards to investigate the countries in which their items originated. The children then used their amazing iPad skills to find these countries on Google Earth and create presentations. We wish we could have included all of their amazing creations on here this week, but we would simply have needed a whole newsletter dedicated to Y2 if we did! As always, we are very proud of all the children. Keep it up, superstars!

Food from around the World

By Eirwen



Oranges from Spain
Europe




Grapes from Peru
South America




Blueberries from Chile
South America



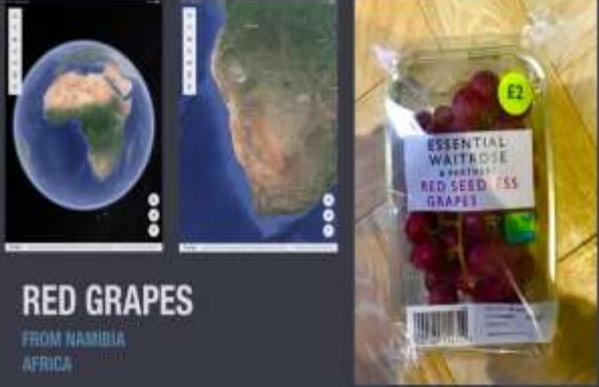

FOOD OF THE WORLD

BY FINLAY



RED GRAPES

FROM NAMIBIA
AFRICA

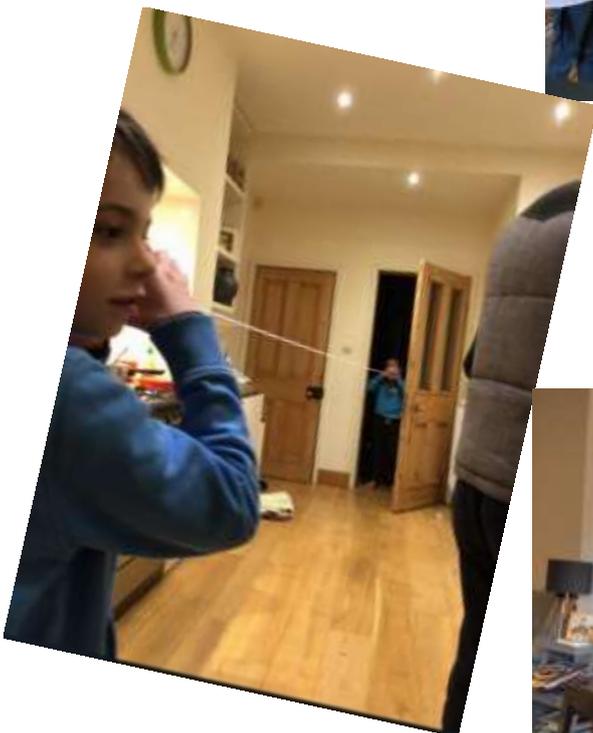


ROMANO PEPPERS AND CHORIZO

FROM SPAIN
EUROPE



In Science, this week, Y3/4 have been exploring the idea of sound. We looked at how it is made and how it travels through molecules. We had fun making these string telephones:



In our English work, we looked at photographs of evacuees and produced some emotive pieces of writing about these pictures.

English 12.1.2021

Noisily and nervously, the chattering children boarded the dusty, green train. A friendly, kind lady handed little tin cups of fresh water to them for their long journey ahead wearing their smartest clothes and caps, with suitcases packed full to the brim, and gas masks bundled under the seats. The somber whistle blew and the train calmly chugged out of the station.

Tuesday 12th January 2020

Fell Feeling sad, the worried children left their families. They hung on to their belongings and jumped onto the train. They were carrying old teddies and cups with them and they all wore a label with their name and age. Gas masks dangled ^{above} children as they guzzled down water. Old children hugged younger children. Like a tornado, questions like "would they be safe? Would they see their family again? The children would find out soon..."

Our home learners have continued to impress with their resilience and positive outlooks this past week. During their afternoon work time, students created newspaper articles - from the viewpoint of an environmental journalist - all about the Antarctica Treaty and offered their opinion why Antarctica needed to stay protected. Amazing work!

12 January 2021

ANTARCTICA TREATY- DOES IT GO FAR ENOUGH?

Who is involved?

There was originally only twelve countries involved, who had some claim to Antarctica or were active there at some point during 1957. Since then, the treaty has expanded and 52 countries have agreed to the treaty.

What are the key purposes of the treaty?

The key purposes of the treaty are to prevent military activity and to promote scientific investigations and cooperation. Once this main treaty had been agreed, smaller treaties were formed to help protect the environment and Antarctica's natural resources.

What is the Antarctica treaty?

The Antarctica treaty is an agreement signed by 52 countries about what happens in Antarctica. There are no indigenous people who live in Antarctica so other countries in the world have created a condominium. The treaty states that no mining can take place until 2048, no nuclear weapons can be tested there and there is free sharing of research. Antarctica should be used for peaceful purposes only. All areas of Antarctica are able to be inspected at any point by anyone. Other points in the treaty include how to settle disputes.



Are there any problems with the treaty?

There are numerous problems with the treaty, although it is useful for the protection of Antarctica and is a great achievement. One of these, in my opinion, is the fact that countries are allowed to search for areas viable for mining although they are not allowed to actually mine. If people do find precious resources, it is likely they will violate the rules. Another issue is the fact that because Antarctica is run by many countries, some may neglect their duties and policing the rules can be hard to do when so many people own it. It is questionable whether the Antarctica treaty will actually protect Antarctica. If one of the more powerful nations decides to use Antarctica to mine and exploit materials, will the other countries be able, or willing, to stop them?

THE ANTARCTICA TREATY

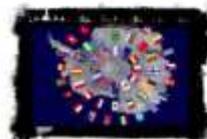
The Antarctica treaty was signed by 12 countries in 1961, since then 42 more countries have joined making the current total 54 countries. The Antarctica Treaty bans mining, fishing and nuclear testing until at least 2048. The treaty bans taking anything from Antarctica, this even means taking a pebble from a beach is illegal. But in 27 years, if countries agree and the treaty comes to an end, the chance is Antarctica will go. This continent could be destroyed. With 41% of Antarctica being claimed by Australia if they form an alliance with China the treaty will probably continue.

China are also planning for Antarctica tourism for luxury not scientific reasons. But if the treaty continues Antarctica will stay as a place where no human lives.

Antarctica is highly respected by many due to the fact that there are no indigenous humans in Antarctica.

Although the Antarctica treaty has protected almost everything, it was missing one major thing, Mining and drilling to extract oil. Which meant the treaty didn't go far enough. But luckily in 1982 an environmental company Greenpeace, campaigned to turn Antarctica into a world natural park. Many said this task was impossible in 1991 it succeeded.

I feel the treaty was a good idea because it has protected Antarctica and its wildlife for the last 6 decades since it has been put in place. I think it's a bad idea that the treaty is only in place until 2048. Antarctica's natural resources have not yet been touched. But in 2048 if the treaty is lifted then China could start drilling and mining for oil. Tourists could start destroying this continent and there would be fishing which could cause a lack of food for the wildlife. Then people may live in Antarctica so this continent may be fully destroyed. I think that the treaty did not go far enough and that tourism should be fully banned. And in 2048 there will be even more. Then because there is no indigenous population, China have no one to fight except charities. China is already planning to build condominiums so people can own parts of Antarctica.





January Collections – Thank you!!

Thank you for your amazing support for our new Western “We C.A.R.E” Donations project last year; we hope we can continue our efforts this term as it’s going to be a challenging time for so many of us.

We are able to collect any non-perishable items, both food and products, and the team at Resurrected Bites will ensure they are distributed to those in need locally. They are in particular need of toiletries and household cleaning items at the moment (shampoo, toilet paper etc) and would happily take any Christmas food you may have left over if you’re planning a new year diet!

Our red wheelie bin is still available to collect your donations; it’s sitting proudly on the Year 5/6 entrance (next to the bike shed) and will be emptied weekly as usual.

As many of us are not attending school at the moment, donations can also be made daily at the old H2k shop on the Crown roundabout between 2-3pm. The shop is currently empty (the new H2k shop is up the hill), and will be dedicated to food collection. It opened this week, and will be staffed by volunteers. Please take your donations to the shop, and if you have an hour or two to spare to help in the shop - please contact Helen Ellis via Classlist or 07740 391558.

Thank you



The North Yorkshire Library Service

In this time of great uncertainty, libraries are still here to support you, your pupils, and their families. At present we are closed for browsing, but Skipton, Harrogate, Knaresborough, and Ripon libraries are able to offer a range of 'Select & Collect' and online services to help with your home-schooling needs.

Join the library - if you are not already a library member you can join online here: <https://capitadiscovery.co.uk/northyorkshire/join>. Alternatively, simply download our free 'North Yorkshire Libraries' app from the App Store or Google Play where you can join the library, reserve books, and access our vast e-book catalogue.

Weekly Storytimes and other Facebook Activities – These are posted on the Harrogate Library Facebook page; a new one is published every Friday at 10am. We are also planning a local celebrity Storytime at 2pm on Mondays with some regular faces from around the area reading a picture book for us; keep an eye on the page for when these shall be starting www.facebook.com/HarrogateLibrary. Our Facebook page also has lots of other adhoc videos and activities such as Elizabeth and Leonards very popular Rhyme time sessions which we post fortnightly (all videos are saved on posts so can be viewed at anytime!)

Select and Collect – contact your library by email or phone with details of the types of books you or your child enjoys/requires for school work and the library team will put together a collection of books. You will be contacted when your books are ready to collect.

Online reservations – search the library catalogue here: <https://capitadiscovery.co.uk/northyorkshire/> and place your reservations (you will need a library card and PIN for this). You will be notified when the your items are ready to collect.

Printing – If you need to print worksheets or schoolwork and don't have a printer, you can email us the relevant documents and a time will be arranged for you to collect them (black and white prints are charged at 10p per sheet, payable on collection of the printing).

Digital Library – with a library card and PIN, you and your children can access thousands of free e-books and e-audiobooks here: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/digital-library>

Online Resources – with a library card and PIN, your child can access the online version of Encyclopaedia Britannica offering up-to-date, reliable information for home learning topics: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/libraries-online-information-resources>. As a library member, families also have free access to www.ziptales.co.uk which has a huge range of interactive reading stories for EYFS, KS1 and KS2.



Language Learners

Language Learners French & Spanish Online Classes

Our Extra Curricular Classes take place at Western Primary School together with local nurseries and primary schools. As we are currently unable to deliver our lessons in the classroom, we are offering our classes online and also to welcome pupils who don't normally attend our lessons.

Here is further information about the lessons:

Due to currently being in lockdown, we are looking at adding to our timetable of lessons which currently only take place after school. Depending on enough interest, we will also be offering lessons during the day.

Our Online lessons have been planned to last around 30 minutes. Children are kept in their school groups/same level. The pupil numbers in each group are kept very small to ensure full interaction with their teacher.

We use the La Jolie Ronde programme to teach our lessons (lajolieronde.co.uk) which are planned to be structured but fun and for specific ages. We have a facebook page where you can follow our updates. We can offer both French and Spanish lessons to all nursery and primary aged children.

Our Online classes cost lower than our usual lessons in the classroom @ £4.95 per lesson, booked and paid in half term blocks. We also offer the opportunity for our pupils to join for 2 lessons per week @ a reduced cost of £9 for 2 lessons. We use the accompanying La Jolie Ronde workbook in our lessons; the cost for the academic year is £20 which also includes the Audio Material.

If you wish to enrol in our Online Classes, please send an email to hello@languagelearners.co.uk