

Western Primary School Newsletter – Friday 26th February 2021

Welcome to another issue of our weekly Newsletter where you can get up to date with everything that has been happening, both at school and at home.



Message from Mr Broad

I am writing to you with initial details relating to the full opening of Western from Monday 8th March and am delighted to be able to welcome back all of our pupils.

The first point to note from the guidance issued on 22nd February is that, *'School attendance will be mandatory for all pupils from 8th March'*. I appreciate that some parents/carers may have significant and understandable anxieties about sending their children back to school and would encourage you to contact me or another of the Senior Leaders if this is the case so we can do our best to reassure you.

Parents should keep pupils at home if they are unwell for any reason. If children are showing symptoms of Coronavirus, you should inform school and arrange for your child to have a test as soon as possible. If the test is positive, your child and everyone in your household needs to self-isolate for 10 days starting the day after symptoms first started or the day after the test if there are no symptoms. Please inform school of any cases or suspected cases of Coronavirus using covid@western.n-yorks.sch.uk

In terms of how the school will operate on a day-to-day basis, there will be no significant changes to the way we operated between September and Christmas. Year groups will operate as distinct bubbles and we will continue with the staggered start and finish arrangements which were in place last term, including the facility for parents to drop off and collect multiple siblings at the same time. **Phase leaders will reissue all of these details, along with other information specific to their phase, in the week beginning Monday 1st March.**

We will continue to implement a range of measures to make our setting as safe as possible and these include:

- The separation of children in different bubbles throughout the day
- The separation (as much as possible) of different classes within each bubble, including when eating lunch
- Staggered start and finish times with separate entrances/exits for pupils in each bubble
- Regular sanitising/handwashing throughout the day for pupils and staff
- Regular reminders of the need for good nose and mouth hygiene
- Additional cleaning throughout the day of frequently touched surfaces
- Ventilation in all areas of the school throughout the day
- Twice-weekly testing for staff in school

I would politely remind parents/carers that face coverings are required whilst on the school grounds (this also applies to school staff during drop-off and pick-up times) and request that you refrain from gathering outside school in groups for catch-up chats at these times. It is very important that we avoid congestion on the pavement outside school as far as is reasonably possible.

The installation of the VAS outside school has had a calming effect on traffic but it is important that we all remain vigilant, as the road continues to be very busy and this will only get worse as the lockdown eases. Please use the pelican crossing whenever you can and model good road safety for our children.



We had a very near miss on Thursday after school when one of our Early Years pupils walked out into the road in front of an approaching car. Fortunately, the driver was observing the speed limit and was able to stop but the driver was very shaken and contacted the school later to politely ask how we would respond to this event. This just shows how easily an accident can occur on such a busy road. Please remind your children about road safety and make sure you are holding hands where very young children are concerned.

Before and after School Club

Please note that the guidance supports the resumption of before and after school care, only where parents need this in order to fulfil commitments to work, training or education or to access medical care.

Western's wrap-around provision will resume from Monday 8th March for pupils in Early Years and Key Stage One (Years 1 and 2). If you have an existing booking, we will assume that you will take up your place unless we hear from you to the contrary. We do have additional space so if you would like to book a place or just find more information, please contact knotta@western.n-yorks.sch.uk

Kids at Heart (Kids' Club)

Before and after school provision for our pupils in Years 3 – 6 will resume through Kids at Heart on Monday 8th March. Please ensure you have informed Kids at Heart if you wish to continue with an existing booking. Again, I know they have lots of available spaces so please use the contact details below if you would like more information or to book a place.

Kids at Heart – Tel: 01423 862192 email: info@kidsatheart.co.uk

We are all very much looking forward to having all our pupils back in school and we will be doing all we can to support them emotionally and academically as they transition from home learning to the school environment. I sincerely hope that this is the last time we have to close our school and that we can all be justifiably optimistic about the future.

I hope you all enjoy a dry and sunny weekend!

Tim Broad
Headteacher

School Holiday Dates 2021-2022

Please click on the link to see next year's term dates and training days.

<https://western.n-yorks.sch.uk/common/images/downloads/2021226095524-HOLIDAY-DATES-21-22.pdf>



KS2 Snacks – 8 March

Snack payment for those Key Stage 2 pupils who are returning to school on 8th March and have not already been in school - is now open. The cost for the rest of this half term is £7.00 per child. We have fruit and one other choice each day. Please note that Parentpay will close on Tuesday 9th March.



Nursery Parents - Pick up

Please remember to always shut the gate behind you and do both top and bottom bolts.

We understand that small children enjoy pressing buttons, but please do not let children press the buzzer by themselves until the parent is at least stood next to them so we can see on the camera that they're not on their own.



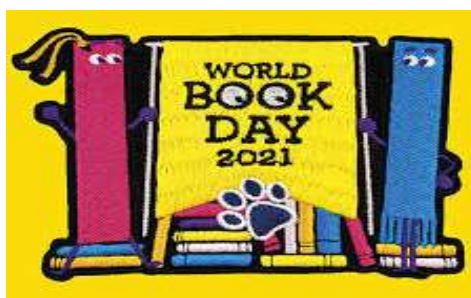
We will not unlock the gate if a child has pressed the buzzer with no accompanying adult

Sporting Influence – fun packed activities!

Please click on the link to take you to the latest Sporting Influence Boredom Buster.



[Please click here](#)



World Book Day is next Thursday 4th March!

We have so many exciting games, experiences and activities planned for next week and here is a snapshot of them!

Whole School Events:

Book Vouchers:

Your child's book token will be emailed out on World Book Day so keep your eyes peeled for this entering your inbox next Thursday! There are some FABULOUS children's books on offer this year including books by Tom Fletcher and Katherine Rundell to name just two authors!

Mystery Reader:

The staff have been busy taking photographs of themselves as our Mystery Reader... take part in the quiz to try to identify who is reading what novel! Can you decide who is our Harry Potter fan? Who likes to enjoy Matilda? And then it's over to your children... they need to take a photograph of themselves reading their favourite novel that they would recommend to a friend and see if everyone else can guess who is reading what book! Tune in on World Book Day to find out the code to join the Mystery Reader group on Showbie.

Decorate a potato!

After the huge success last year, we are inviting children to decorate a potato to make it look like a book character again this year! If your child's potato is chosen to represent school, they could win a £10 book voucher! Each winner will then be put into a grand prize draw and the person who wins overall, wins their school £100 book vouchers!

EYFS:

Children in Early Years will be having a pyjama day and sharing their favourite stories all cosied up in their comfy bedtime gear!

KS1:

KS1 children will be watching the illustrator Rob Biddulph create his character Gregosaurus and learning how to draw him. We will also be watching him and other illustrators bringing books to life with illustrations on the world book day live stream. We will be designing new front covers for a story we will listen to a book called 'Trouble at Dinosaur Cafe' by Brian Moses in Y1. Y2 will be designing covers for one of their favourite books.

Year 3/4:

The Y3/4 children will be creating a character following advice from an author and then producing a cartoon comic strip which includes their very own character on screen and by hand. They will also be enjoying solving codes and maths problems with a reading link!

Year 5/6:

Our upper KS2 children will be tuning in to the award winning children's author Tom Palmer between 10 and 11a.m. for a live and interactive event. See Showbie and the weekly letter for further details! At 11:30 all the Y5/6 teachers will be reading a different short story. Children can choose the story they would like to hear and zoom that teacher; more information will be on the Friday letter! After the storytelling, children will be completing a task from the World Book Day menu of activities.

UK Safer Internet Centre – Omegle



We have received an email from the UK Safer Internet Centre that might be of interest to you.

It concerns a website called Omegle. Fortunately, many home Internet Service Providers block this site if parental settings are correctly applied. However, the website is quite concerning and it appears that young people are being alerted to its presence via the Tik Tok app. Please note additionally that the TikTok app has a minimum age requirement of 13 years.

What is Omegle?

Key Things Parents And Carers Need To Know

At the UK Safer Internet Centre, we regularly deliver online safety training sessions both virtually and in person to pupils, parents and teachers.

Recently we have noticed a lot of conversations about the website 'Omegle', and we know parents and carers may have also heard about Omegle in the news recently. In this blog we are explaining to parents and carers what Omegle is and some of the key things to be aware of.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/what-omegle-key-things-parents-and-carers-need-know>

Remember we also have links to Online Safety on our school website.

<https://western.n-yorks.sch.uk/general-information/e-safety/>

Please make sure that you have parental internet settings enabled at home.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>

Early Years - Nursery

Nursery have been busy learning about Caterpillars this week. They have made some lovely salad spinner and collage butterflies, enjoyed sharing the Hungry Caterpillar story and have been busy mark-making. Some superheroes visited Purple Room too!



Early Years – Reception

We have had a busy week again. Lots of super learning has taken place at home and school. This week we have been learning about the life cycle of a caterpillar and have enjoyed sharing the Hungry Caterpillar story. We have been learning to measure in Maths and have measured with cubes and rulers. We particularly enjoyed phonics pop this week where we sounded out words using our amazing phonics skills and then popped the balloons! Great week everyone!

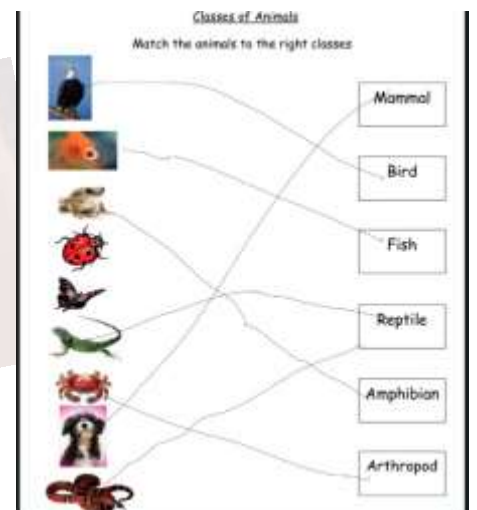
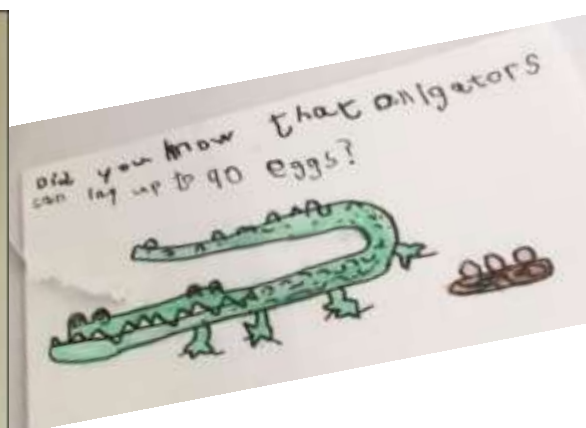
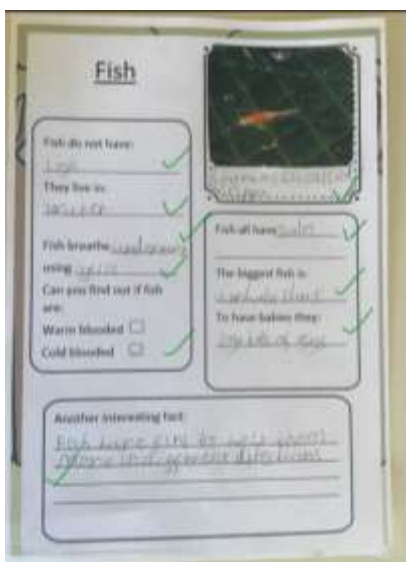


Year 1

Over in Y1, we have also been thinking all about our new topic question 'Should dinosaurs be brought back to life?'. We have seen some brilliant and very curious questions from the children.



In our science lesson, we have been learning all about different animal groups and what their features are then using this to create our own fact files. We have used all our new found knowledge to classify animals into groups.

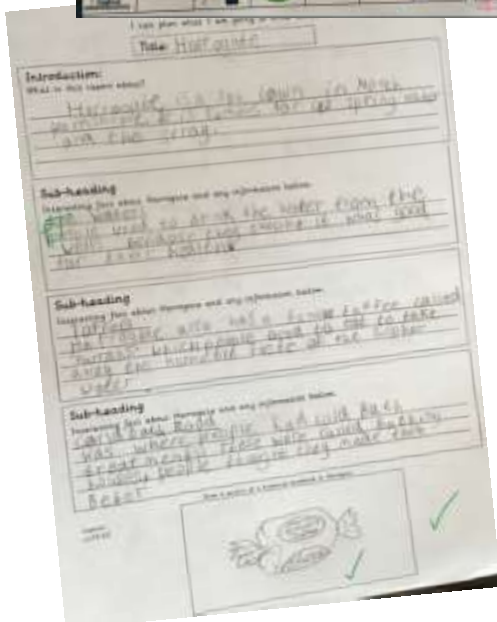
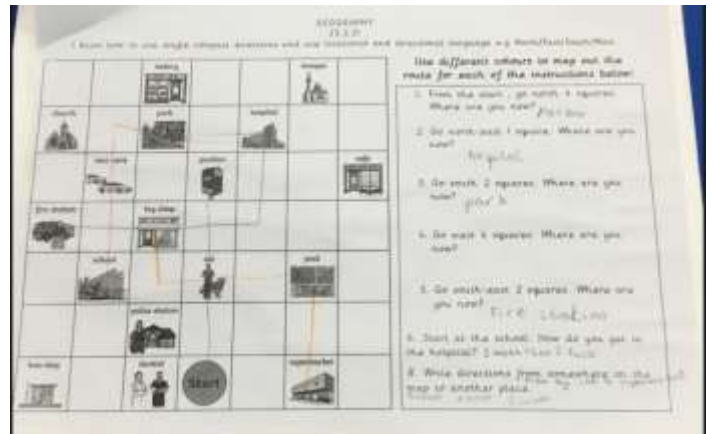
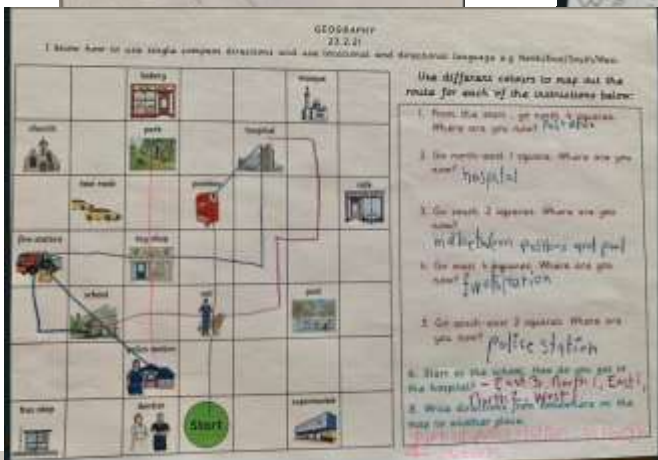
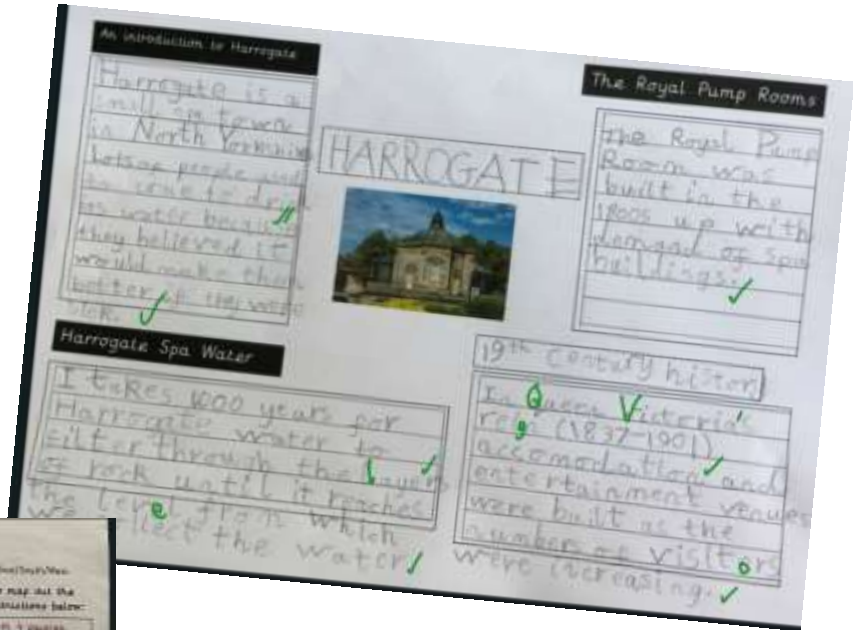
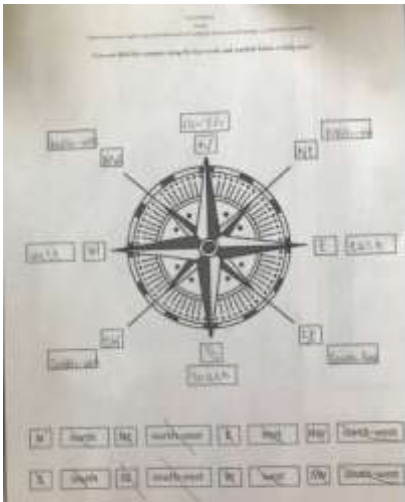


Year 2

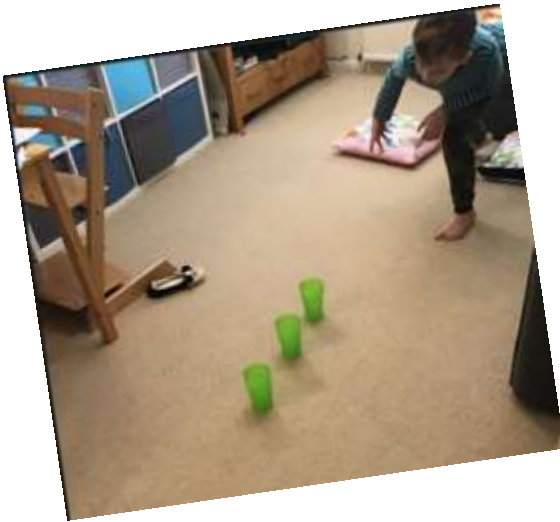
We have made an excellent start to our new topic 'What came before us?'. We couldn't go on a tour of Harrogate, so Harrogate came to us! First the children had a virtual tour of Harrogate with Mr Hebblewhite and Squawk and then they created a Padlet board full of our curious questions that we would like to find out about. We have then been finding out all about the history and geography of Harrogate, including compass directions and famous landmarks.

The children needed to apply their knowledge of compass directions to navigate and chart their routes across a map.

In English, we have researched facts about Harrogate and created some fantastic non-chronological reports all about the wonderful town we live in. The children have found out about the discovery of the famous spa waters and how Harrogate has developed as a tourist destination.



This week, we had a challenge to complete in PE. It was quite tricky as we had to hit three targets in a row. Here are two children who completed it:



We have been learning about inventors and inventions in our topic work. We looked at the history of the telephone and found out all about Alexander Graham Bell. We asked adults a series of questions about what they remember about different telephones that they have used in the past:

Questions: What telephone did you first remember having?

Mummy: I had a push button telepho when I was little and had to ask permission every time I used it to phone my friends. I was only allowed to use it after 7pm as the calls were cheaper.

Daddy: I had an old rotary telephone like the red one in the picture. Calls were very expensive and there was only one telepho company called BT who I now work for.

Questions: When did you get the first mobile phone?

Mummy: I was about 20 years old. It was very expensive - about £250 per month take a guess. You had to PRESS the numbers multiple times to flick through the letters.

Daddy: I got mine when I was 22 year old when I first started BT a rec they pay for all my calls and they still do now. I still have my first phone.

My questions to my Mum 23/02/21

1) Did you have to use the red telepho box when you were growing up?

Yes because there were no mobile phones so if you needed to contact someone when you were out of the house, a public phone was the only option.

2) What type of phone did you have at home?

We just had one landline with a speaker attached to the phone so you couldn't walk around the house talking, and a round dial which was operated using a finger or a hole.

My questions to my Grandma 23/02/21

1) What type of phone did you have at home?

Only very rich people had telepho-ones in those days (1930s-1940s). If you didn't have a phone but wanted to speak to someone, you'd use a public phone box. When my Grandma did get a phone at home, it was the old fashioned type with a handle in the middle and two large speakers either end.

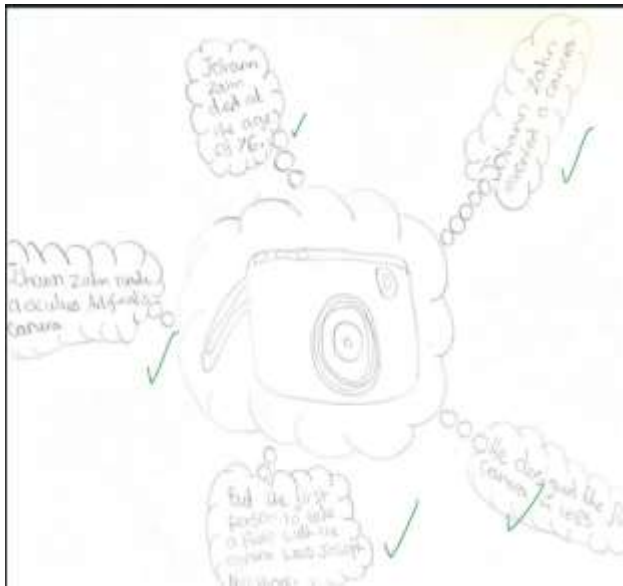
Here is a photo of some phones that one child had at home:

AB

We have these old phones at home. The top two still work and can be plugged in and used. The bottom one is my daddy's first ever mobile phone.



We also found out all about an invention that we could not do without:



Monday 22nd February 2021
 I can research information

WHO WAS THE INVENTOR OF COMPUTER

Charles Babbage was the inventor of the first computer. Babbage invented computers but failed to build them. The computer was called the first computer.

Charles Babbage had a wife called Georgina. He had 12 children but only 4 of his children survived childhood. Charles Babbage was a mathematician, inventor, and philosopher. He was the first to design a mechanical computer. He was called the father of the computer.

spots inventor invented invented invented
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Monday 22nd of February 2021
 I can research information

Stickers!

Stickers can be colorful objects for good behaviour. They can be stickers, prices in a charity shop. Or stamps for animals!

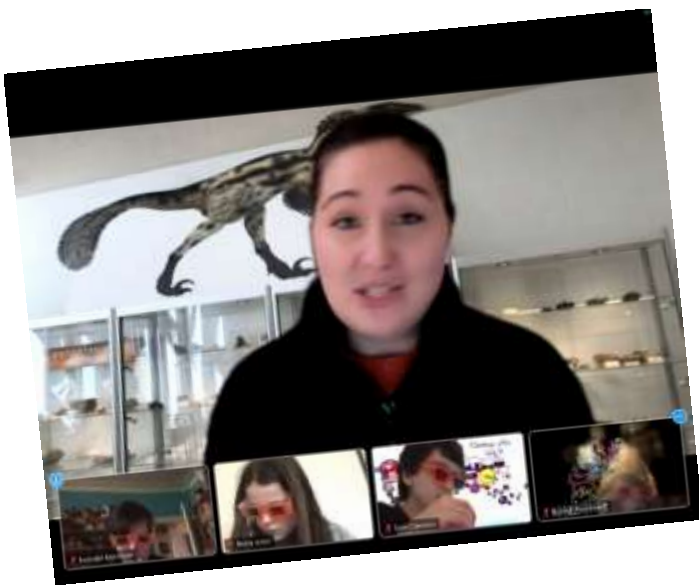
Stan Avery was an American inventor who put together together random objects to make machines. To make stickers, he made a machine that put self adhesive labels onto a paper backing coated with silicone so they could be peeled off and put in different places.

Stickers can be the shape of a character, an animal or a vehicle. Every since 1935 when Stan invented them, stickers have exploded. You can put stickers on notebooks, furniture, clothing, shoes and loads of places. Stickers are one cool invented object!

video video video video

What a week we have had in Year 5/6! We have all arrived back to school or online learning feeling refreshed and invigorated and ready for whatever we may face in the coming weeks. It has been great to see lots of smiling faces both on screen and in the classroom.

We have been extremely lucky this week and had not one, but two guest speakers! Dr Amy Edgington from UCL led a workshop that was quite literally out of this world when she helped us to experience awe and wonder through a 3d workshop all about space!



Dr Rory O'Connor, an Antarctic explorer, also led a zoom workshop where he shared his incredible experience of his different explorations of Antarctica. All the children (and staff!) have learnt so much from listening to the stories Rory shared with us and it was a true privilege to see some of the photos and share a snippet of his experiences.



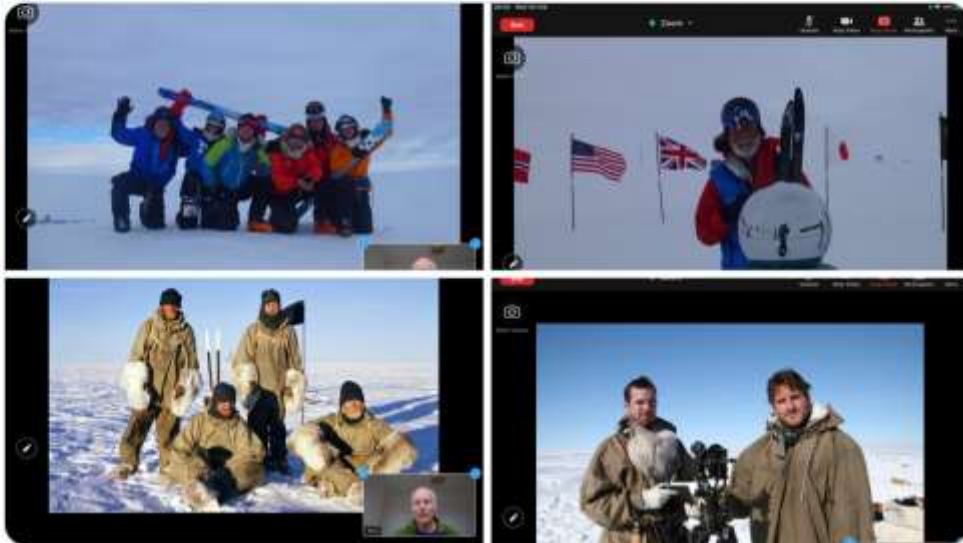
Tweeted!

We have tweeted about our Antarctic explorer, Rory O'Connor, and tagged his exploring companion Dr Chris from OPeration Ouch and Dr Chris has replied and retweeted our tweet. It has now been seen by over 9000 people!!!



MrsHowes @MrsHowes2 · 20h

Another fantastic experience for our @56western children today who have spent 45 minutes hearing lots of tales from Dr Rory O'Connor about his trips to Antarctica! One of the trips with @DoctorChrisVT @PrimaryWestern #Antarctica #futurescientists #futureexplorers



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Chris van Tulleken 🏳️‍🌈 🟦
@DoctorChrisVT

Replying to @MrsHowes2 @56western and @PrimaryWestern
Amazing to see this! Best trip ever. X