



Brook Field School

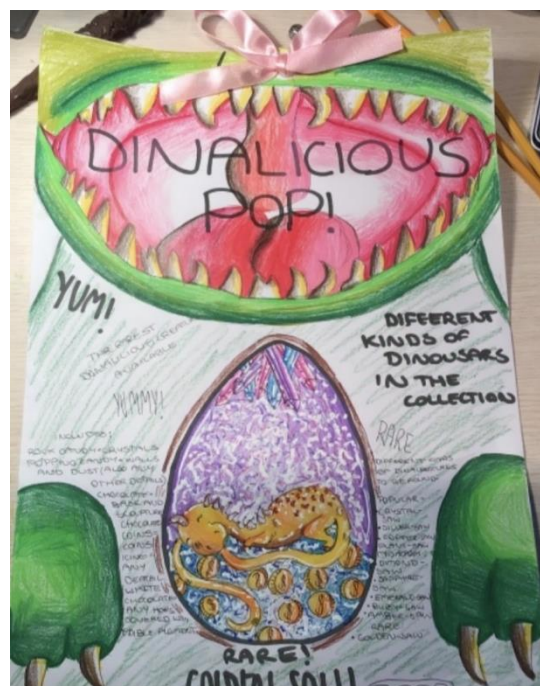
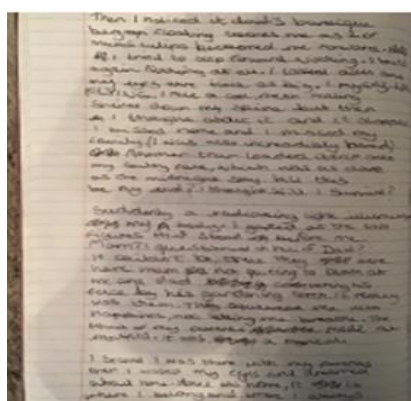
Newsletter – April 2020



Hello everyone!! First and foremost, I hope everyone is well and staying safe during this difficult period and have found a variety of new and innovative approaches to spending more time at home! The entire Brook Field team are missing the children terribly and we are really looking forward to normal service resuming as soon as it is safe to do so. I must say, although the teachers have been working in a different way with the children, some of the activities and work that has been produced from home has been outstanding! I have pieced together a few examples to showcase but I could have included hundreds! Here is just a small selection of the imagination, creativity and application of key skills the children have produced:

DON'T FORGET – TEACHERS ARE NOW UPDATING **DB PRIMARY** CLASS PAGES DAILY, WITH APPROPRIATE TASKS AND ACTIVITIES, WHILST ALSO RESPONDING TO ALL UPLOADED WORK AND MESSAGES FROM THE CHILDREN (DB Primary is one of many sites the children can access from our VLE links on the school website: <https://www.brookfieldprimary.org/vle-links/>)

Year 6



The Willow Pattern is a classic embroidery design. It features a central scene with a boat on the left, a willow tree in the center, and a pagoda on the right. The design is framed by a decorative border at the top and bottom. The text "The Willow Pattern" is written in a stylized font on the left, and "by Anna S. S. S. S." is on the right.

relative clause

[illegible]

Year 4



Wildlife on the Mississippi River



Mammals: Mammals in the park range from tiny, secretive northern shrews to more obvious animals such as otters, beavers, coyotes, and white-tailed deer. Black bears and mountain lions may rarely wander through the park, although neither represent resident populations.

Birds: The Mississippi National River and Recreation Area has lots of different habitats available for birds making it a haven for many species. Migrating birds use the river as a major migratory path in both spring and autumn.



Mussels: Mussel populations, once rare to non-existent in the river, are becoming increasingly common. While they are often overlooked mussels play significant role in the river's ecology and have fascinating life histories



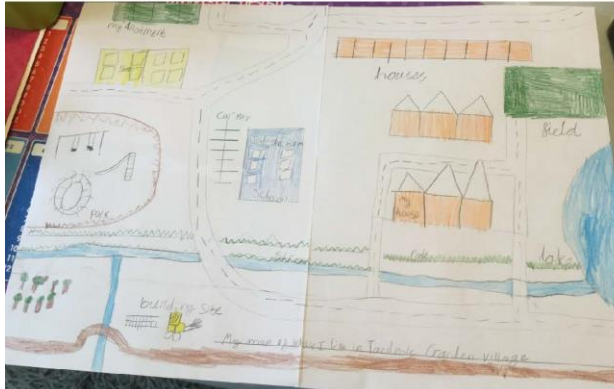
My River

The model of my river includes a mountain, a hill, a road, a bridge, some beaches and the sea



The source of the river is in the craggy mountain.

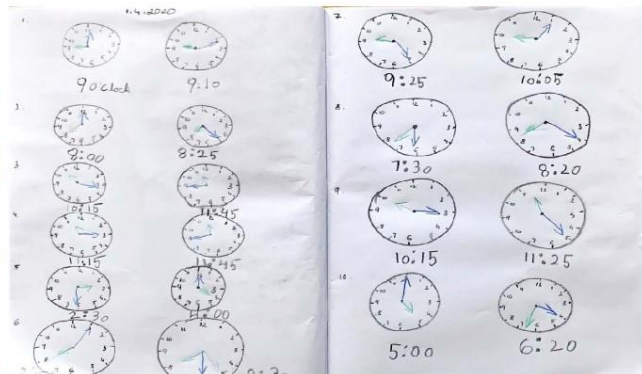
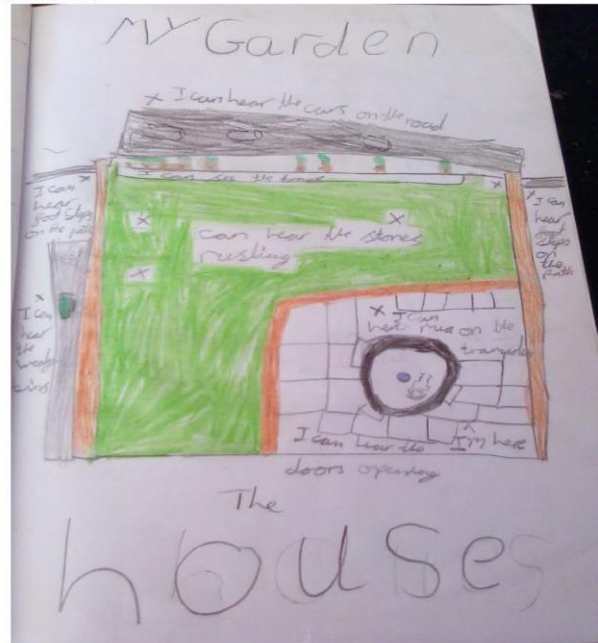
Year 3



Just before Easter we had a Geography task linked to our mapping objectives. We could either:

Create a sound map of near our house;
Draw a map of our local area from memory or;
Design our own Roman Town (linked to our History)

Here is an example of each type of map from Macy (Sound), Alfie (Local area) and Neve (Roman Town)



Imperative Verbs

Add an imperative verb to each of these commands so that they make sense.

1. underline a line with a ruler.
2. mix the ingredients together properly.
3. listen to the instructions.
4. Put your hand up to ask a question.
5. complete your homework by Friday.
6. write what you saw.
7. Question the suspects about the crime.
8. open the webpage.
9. check your answers.
10. remember to bring your book bag.

Write four imperative verbs that you might find in a recipe.

mix	bake
recipe	
Put	Sprinkle

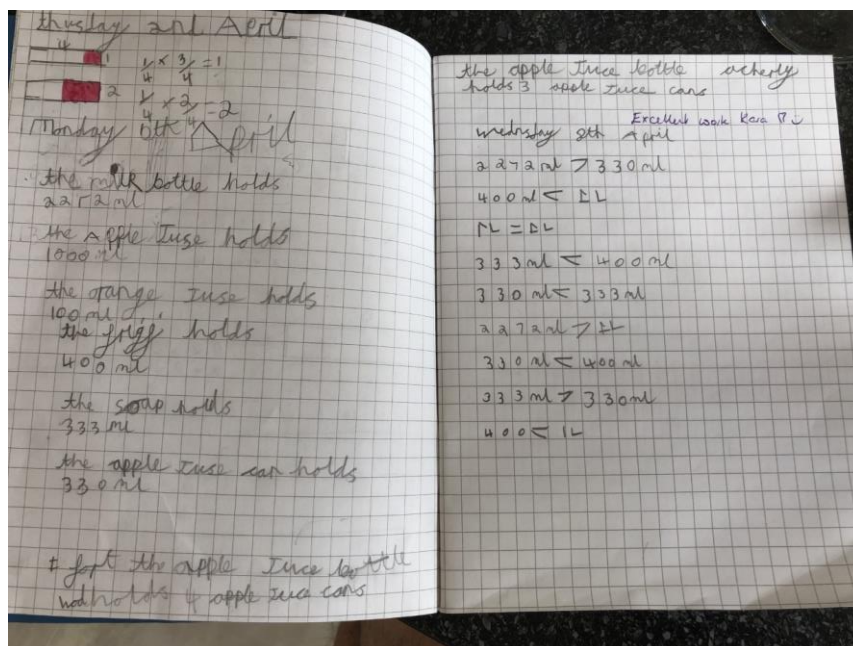
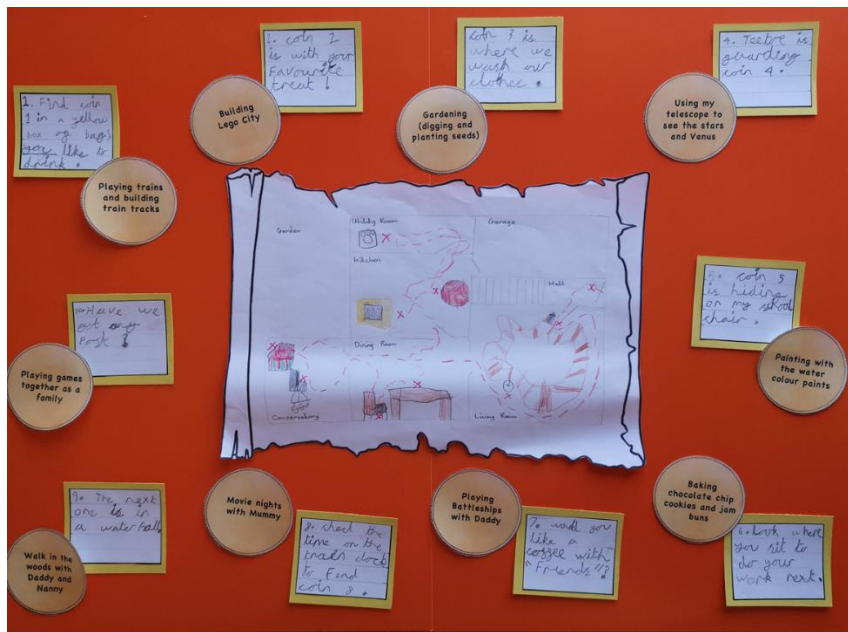
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Task	Time of time to measure? (estimate or measure?)	Estimate of how long it might take	Actual time taken
1. Write your name in 100 Cursive (1) (10)	seconds	70 seconds	40 seconds
2. Write the number 1 - 50 in a cursive hand (1)	minutes	2 minutes	2 minutes 30
3. Write the number 1 - 50 in a cursive hand (1)	minutes	1 minute	2 minutes
4. Write the number 1 - 50 in a cursive hand (1)	minutes	10 minutes	13 seconds
5. Write the number 1 - 50 in a cursive hand (1)	minutes	2 minutes	1m 15s
6. Write the number 1 - 50 in a cursive hand (1)	minutes	2 minutes	21 seconds
7. Write the number 1 - 50 in a cursive hand (1)	seconds	2 seconds	3m 15s
8. Write the number 1 - 50 in a cursive hand (1)	seconds	2 seconds	2m 15s
9. Write the number 1 - 50 in a cursive hand (1)	minutes	20 minutes	3m 45s
10. Write the number 1 - 50 in a cursive hand (1)	minutes	5 minutes	7m 7s
11. Write the number 1 - 50 in a cursive hand (1)	seconds	60 seconds	80 seconds
12. Write the number 1 - 50 in a cursive hand (1)	seconds	60 seconds	28 seconds

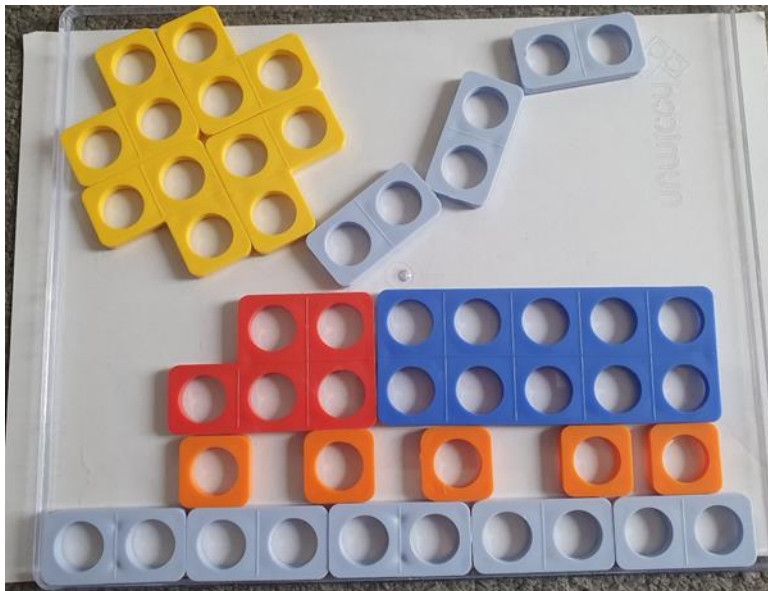
Year 3 Work
Natalia's Easter
Cupcakes and clocks for
telling the time to 5-
minute intervals.

Some imperative verb work for our instruction writing and calculating how long events take to happen from Elsie and Isla.

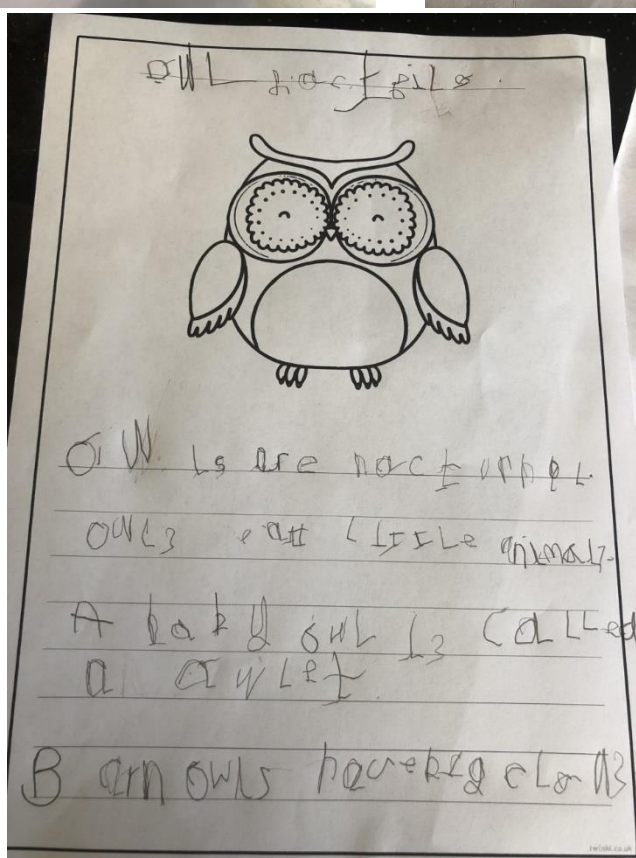
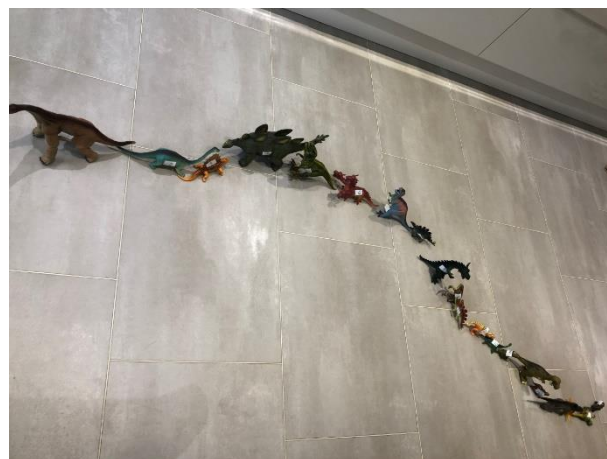
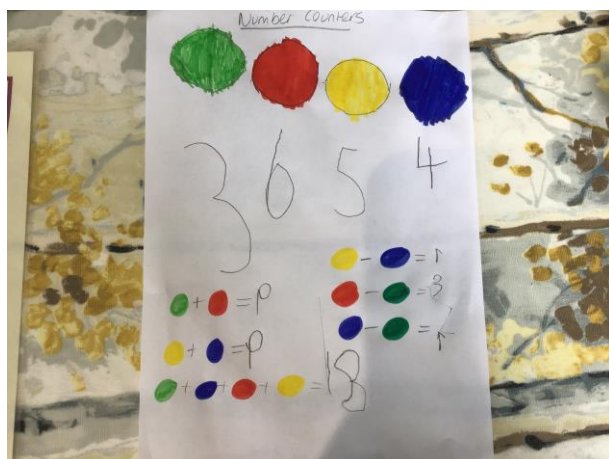
Year 2



Year 1



Foundation Stage



We **ABSOLUTELY LOVE** seeing all the fantastic work you are producing; it really gives us a cheer, thank you!!!! Please keep sending it to us.

Our School Value this Term is:

RESPECT

Perhaps the children could e-mail me, via DB Primary, of all the things they have been doing at home and around the house demonstrating this value. I would love to hear from them!

Continue Home Learning Opportunities

As many of you are aware, the new Home Learning Activities tab on our website has proved extremely useful. Simply access our website and click on the: 'Our School' page. Or use the attached link: <https://www.brookfieldprimary.org/home-learning-resources/> On here you will find a vast range of different subjects' materials and weblinks, including an Oracy section. Do visit this page regularly, as in addition to the list of resources and advice, there are topics for discussion and debate that are renewed daily.

Helping you make the most of this time to talk together and have great debates!

Would you rather...

live in a house made of pudding, **OR** a house made of marshmallow?



Would you rather...

have one year of winter and then 5 months of summer **OR**
two years of winter and 1 year of summer?

Topics for meal time conversations...

What do you think adults need to remember about being a child to help them bring up children well?

Are you mostly a leader or a follower?

Why is it so important to find time to keep up with reading at home?

Reading allows children to discover new worlds, meet new people and learn about the past, while sparking imagination, stimulating critical thinking and helping children develop empathy. What's more, we know that children who enjoy reading and read widely are more likely to do better in school and be happier with their lives (National Literacy Trust (2018) Mental wellbeing, reading and writing).



In this difficult time, it's really important that parents and families create time in their daily routines to share books and stories together. Not only will it provide enjoyable moments as a family, but by encouraging children to keep practising their literacy skills at home, it will help them feel confident and prepared to go back to the classroom and ensure

they do not fall behind. Reading with your child for as little as 10 minutes a day can make all the difference. (Oxford University Press (2013) Books Beyond Time)

How can I access new books from the confinement of my home?

Do visit our School's website, in particular the home learning tab of Reading and writing: <https://www.brookfieldprimary.org/english/> , where there is a vast range of links to authors reading aloud, book suggestions and links to texts that are regularly being updated.

Also for information on which colour book your child/ren should be reading and the next colour to move on to, please visit on our website, Our Ethos & Curriculum, Reading: <https://www.brookfieldprimary.org/reading/>.

A fantastic FREE RESOURCE at the moment is: <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/school-closure-resources/>

A powerpoint has been attached to the email accompanying this newsletter to take you through a very quick and easy approach to accessing Phonics and banded e-books for free!!!

As well as listening to free audiobooks through Audible, there are several apps you can use to access books and stories at home. Here are three great examples below, and you can find more through our [handy guide to literacy apps](#):

[Libby](#) allows you to borrow ebooks and audiobooks from your local library using your device

[Borrow Box](#) allows you to borrow audiobooks and ebooks for free in the app

[CBeebies Storytime](#) app makes reading fun, with playful and imaginative stories featuring CBeebies characters designed to help support early years reading

Many incredible authors and illustrators are also reading daily stories online for children and families, including [Oliver Jeffers](#), [Steve Anthony](#) and [Rob Biddulph](#).

Visit the National Literacy Trust's brand new [Family Zone](#) for more ideas and guidance for simple activities that will engage your children at home, while also benefiting their reading, writing and language development.

For more advice and information please visit: <https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/>



Family Support Top Tips



- Use of a timer
 - to set a challenge
 - for time out
 - for school work
 - exercise/dance routine
 - reading



- Create a calm down area
 - helps to diffuse a situation
 - gives space a time to calm down
 - helps with anxiety

For a child this is often their bedroom, they could create a corner like a den. You can also have a box in there for the child to help them calm down. Some ideas for the box; pencil and paper, colouring pad, cuddly toy, slime, books.

- Make a worry box (perhaps use an old shoe box)
 - good for children/adults who struggle to verbalise their feelings
 - family to talk together about the worries for reassurance
 - everyone can share their worries

Find a place that isn't too obvious to place the box. Leave some paper and a pen next to the box.



- Set a Routine (maybe use the back of an old cereal box)
 - the 'new' normal
 - adds structure and helps with anxiety
 - learn new things
 - whole family input to aid fairness
 - provides 'free choice'

The activities that you decide upon could be on separate strips of card, so that you can decide on the order of events for the day together.

Before 9:00am	Wake up
9:00-10:00	Morning walk
10:00-11:00	Academic time
11:00-12:00	Creative time
12:00	Lunch
12:30PM	Chore time
1:00-2:30	Quiet time
2:30-4:00	Academic time
4:00-5:00	Afternoon fresh air

- 100 acts of Kindness Chart

Each to write down some family rewards onto small pieces of paper.

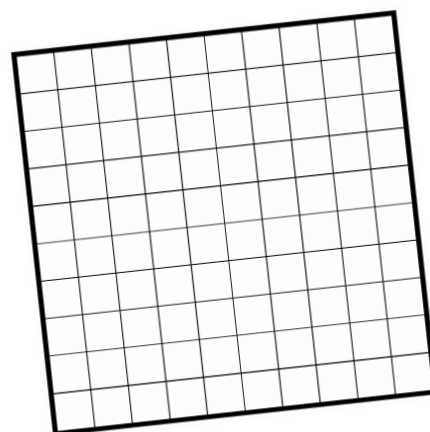
Then fold up and put in a jar.

Get a large piece of paper and divide into 100 squares

Write a number from 1 to 100 in each square – this could be in order or randomly.

When a family member does an act of kindness they get to colour the square in.

When completed one member of the family chooses a reward randomly from the jar.



Chess Opportunity for Brook Field Children

Play virtual chess on - Chesskid for Schools

In conjunction with our chess coach, Mr Girdlestone, Brook Field has signed up to the above online chess website which provides learning and playing opportunities designed for children aged 5-11. The website provides access to instructional videos, 1000's of puzzles and the children are able to play other children in a completely safe, anonymous environment.

If you think your child would be interested and would like to learn to play or improve their existing chess skills then e-mail the school at: parents@brookfield.swindon.sch.uk (**please use Chesskid in the subject/title**) with your child's name and we will issue you with your unique password and username as well as a document explaining how to get started and what to expect from the website. We hope you enjoy and perhaps learn a new skill?

<https://www.chessinschools.co.uk/chesskid-for-schools>



Staying Safe On-Line

There is a lot of support available to keep your child safe online. Below are some useful links to help parents and carers:

Thinkyouknow (advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online)

Internet matters (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)

[Parent info](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)

[LGfL](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)

Net-aware (support for parents and carers from the NSPCC)



Free or cheap play ideas!

- Balloon tennis
- Memory games, also known as Kim's Game– using a tray. Place items on a tray, use a minute timer and then cover the items. See how many items you can remember.
- Design your own game. Perhaps based on a favourite game, your own version of snakes and ladders – stairs and slides!
- Make a den – in or outside
- Using a bubble wand pop bubbles – great exercise too
- Make playdough – <https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/howto/guide/playdough-recipe>

- Have a picnic at home, perhaps make menu or place cards to accompany it, lay a blanket out in the living room or garden. Perhaps make it a teddy bear's picnic

Helpful links

With Coronavirus (COVID-19) dominating the headlines both on the television and online, children and young people are likely to be asking a lot of questions. Sometimes it can be difficult to know how to approach discussions in an honest and age appropriate way. Below are some links to tips and further information, explaining how best to approach coronavirus conversations with children.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-51734855>

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/supporting-your-child-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

COPING CALENDAR: KEEP CALM. STAY WISE. BE KIND

30 actions to look after ourselves and each other as we face this global crisis together. Please use & share 🙌

1 Make a plan to help you keep calm and stay in contact	2 Enjoy washing your hands. Remember all they do for you!	3 Write down ten things you feel grateful for in life and why	4 Stay hydrated, eat healthy food and boost your immune system	5 Get active. Even if you're stuck indoors, move & stretch	6 Contact a neighbour or friend and offer to help them	7 Share what you are feeling and be willing to ask for help
8 Take five minutes to sit still and breathe. Repeat regularly	9 Call a loved one to catch up and really listen to them	10 Get good sleep. No screens before bed or when waking up	11 Notice five things that are beautiful in the world around you	12 Immerse yourself in a new book, TV show or podcast	13 Respond positively to everyone you interact with	14 Play a game that you enjoyed when you were younger
15 Make some progress on a project that matters to you	16 Rediscover your favourite music that really lifts your spirits	17 Learn something new or do something creative	18 Find a fun way to do an extra 15 minutes of physical activity	19 Do three acts of kindness to help others, however small	20 Make time for self-care. Do something kind for yourself	21 Send a letter or message to someone you can't be with
22 Find positive stories in the news and share these with others	23 Have a tech-free day. Stop scrolling and turn off the news	24 Put your worries into perspective and try to let them go	25 Look for the good in others and notice their strengths	26 Take a small step towards an important goal	27 Thank three people you're grateful to and tell them why	28 Make a plan to meet up with others again later in the year
29 Connect with nature. Breathe and notice life continuing	30 Remember that all feelings and situations pass in time					

“Everything can be taken from us but one thing: the freedom to choose our attitude in any given set of circumstances” ~ Viktor Frankl

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Find out more about the Ten Keys to Happier Living, including books, guides, posters and more here: www.actionforhappiness.org/10-keys

www.actionforhappiness.org

Sports Report

Term 4 was continuing to prove frustrating due to the wet weather, with all the girls' football matches and several boys' matches having to be postponed. On one occasion, even the Astroturf, we were going to use was flooded! Brook Field was in the process of gearing up to take part in several Fortius PE Competitions such as a Tag Rugby Tournament and a Netball Festival before other events took over!

Gymnastics Competition

During the morning of Thursday 12th March, Mrs Swift and Mrs Vincent took a team of six Year 1s and a team of seven Year 4s to Abbey Park School for the Fortius Gymnastics Competition. The winners and runners-up of the Years 3/4 event are able to go forward to represent Swindon in the Wiltshire County Finals. The Gymnastics Competition sees the performance of a set routine that becomes progressively more challenging for the older groups. Each gymnast performs the routine individually with all the scores added together for the overall team score to decide the order in which the schools finish.

Everyone performed brilliantly and we did extremely well. Mrs Swift and Mrs Vincent were very proud of all the children, including several who were taking part in their very first competition. We are delighted that the Year 1 team came second overall (out of six teams) and the Year 4 team came third (out of ten teams).

Mrs Vincent and Mrs Swift cannot remember the order of those competing but, as you can see from the results' tables below, our Gymnast No. 1 from Year 4 was the top individual scorer with 9.9 in their age category and Gymnast No. 3 from our Year 1 team joint top scored also with 9.9 in their age group.

Year 1 Results

School	No1	No2	No3	No4	No5	No6	TOTAL
Even Swindon	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.9	9.8	9.9	48.6
Brook Field	9.6	9.5	9.9	9.3	9.6	9.4	48
Greenmeadow 1	9.8	9.4	8.8	9.1	8.3	8.4	45.5
Orchid Vale	8.9	8.5	8.3	9.1	8.4	9.4	44.3
Wroughton	8.5	7.9	7.3	9	8.6		41.3
Greenmeadow 2	6.6	7.3	7.7	7.6	7.8	7.9	38.3

Year 3/4 Results

	No1	No2	No3	No4	No5	No6	TOTAL
Haydonleigh 2	9.8	9.1	9.56	9.6	9.56	9.8	48.32
Even Swindon A	9.53	9.55	9.15	9.6	9.85	9.75	48.28
Brook Field	9.9	9.1	9.15	9.4	9.5	9.25	47.2
Even Swindon B	8.7	9.3	9.4	9.4	9.3	9.75	47.15
Haydonleigh	9.45	9.3	9.4	9.35	9.45	9.15	46.95
King William Street	9.53	9.45	8.75	9.25	9.25	9	46.48
Greenmeadow 1	9	9.05	7.85	9.4	9.6	8.5	45.55
Red Oaks	8.83	8.6	9.3	8.5	8.93		44.16
Greenmeadow 2	8.63	8.3	8.26	8.63	9.5	8.7	43.76
Orchid Vale	8.3	8.73	7.76	7.23	9.2	8.9	42.89

Unfortunately, the Year 4 team didn't quite make it to the County Finals this year but both teams came back to school buzzing and showing off their lovely medals for finishing second and third.



A huge "thank you" to one of the Year 1 mum's (sorry, not sure which one?!) who bought the leotards for her daughter and the other three girls in the team! It was really appreciated and made them look very smart. Thank you as well to all the parents who provided transport and to Mrs Swift and Mrs Vincent for coaching the teams and getting them prepared and "competition ready!" Congratulations to everybody in the Year 1 and Year 4 teams – you were amazing!

