

LOCKDOWN

Summer term
2020, Week 5

News



A word of caution about 1st June

It occurred to us that whilst we are full steam ahead with our preparations for re-opening on June 1st for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, we must remind everyone that the Prime Minister, in his announcement, stated that the re-opening relied upon 5 measures being achieved and comment on progress will be made on 28th May. We will also be obliged to take advice from the Herefordshire County Council, our local authority, regarding their local perspective on infection numbers and the 'R' rate in Herefordshire at that time.



This all means that, as late as Friday 29th May, the planned opening on Monday 1st June, may well be deferred. I mention this now to ensure that everyone gives due consideration to contingency planning should the school not re-open as planned for the specified year groups on 1st June.

Huge thanks also to so many of you who have emailed and called to express your thoughts regarding my leaving at the end of this academic year and thanks also to those who have informed me that some parents are concerned regarding what it may say about the school's finances.

I am happy to be able to assure you that the management of the school is in good hands and it is precisely the actions and plans being made now, including Paul and me leaving without immediate replacements, that will ensure that the school remains financially sound. As some of you know, we have made some use of the government's furlough scheme

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Prep School News

Well we are finishing week 5 of the term and are getting ready for half term, Lucton Prep are readying themselves for the possibility of opening on 1st June. As we are all finding, there seems to be a daily change in guidelines and possibilities. I am pleased to say that most of the guidelines for readying the school have not changed. So we are going back to the world of the Victorians! We have rows of desks and our classrooms are becoming more and more minimal. We have been trying this with the key worker children and its rather fun! Anyway, it is better to be ready and to cancel, than not.

Meanwhile there have been reports back from some of the year groups

This week, Year 5 has had a focus on problem-solving, with a maths mystery, themed around monkey mayhem at the zoo; a grammar mystery, trying to solve who stole the emoji's colour; and a planetarium escape room challenge, to review this half term's science topic: space.



Livia also sent Mrs Wall a very excited message and photos of a solar halo - an unusual weather-phenomenon that she spotted on Monday.

I know that some of Year 4 have been rather busy with sport as well. They have been busy with history and geography learning what the Romans really did for us and the whys and wherefores of volcanoes and earthquakes. I know that Year 3 will be looking forward to making some treasure maps. I do hope teabags, and singing make a good showing! It appears that, along with the academic subjects, Pre Prep have been

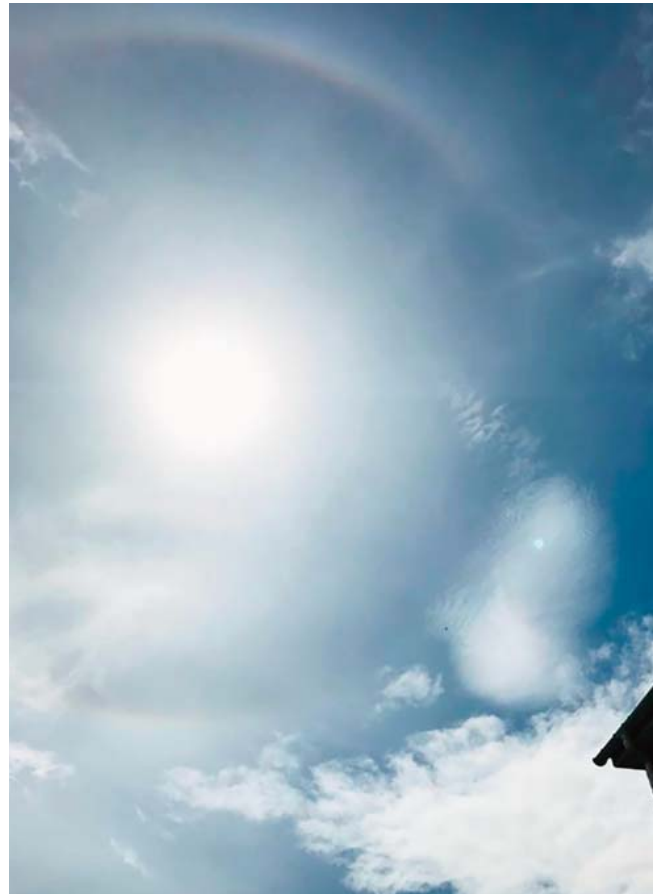


really creative. Year 2 have been growing, Year 1 have been all things space and Year R have been making symmetry really fun!

Well done everyone. Keep smiling when you can; don't forget that Cosmic Yoga relaxation is an excellent 10 minutes of calming time for you all actually, not just the children. So make sure you keep well and try and enjoy some more physical distancing with others.

Solar halo

Here is an excellent example of a solar halo spotted by Livia in Year 5 this week. She tells me it is a solar halo and says: We spotted it and it means that the clouds are so high in the sky they have ice crystals and that's why there's a halo. Mrs Wall.



Emilia Shepherd

It was great to receive images of Emilia Shepherd, (Year 4) doing some physical activity in the terrific weather recently.



Boarding House News

Our boarders have continued to enjoy the glorious sunshine as life in the lockdown boarding house continues. As with all students, the boarders have been spending their days concentrating on online learning. They have been able to make the most of the facilities on offer while still at school and we have set up dedicated classrooms for them to use during the day. Away from their studies, the boarders continue to show a truly upbeat attitude and we are so proud of the way they are conducting themselves during these difficult times. I am very grateful for the help that some of the boarders have given me in the eco garden. We have used the time available to plant some beetroot, carrots, peas and pumpkins. We have also been keeping a close eye on the potatoes and onions that were planted earlier in the year and are probably about a month away from harvesting. It has been good to see them get their hands dirty and they have enjoyed themselves with having the chance to potter in the garden.

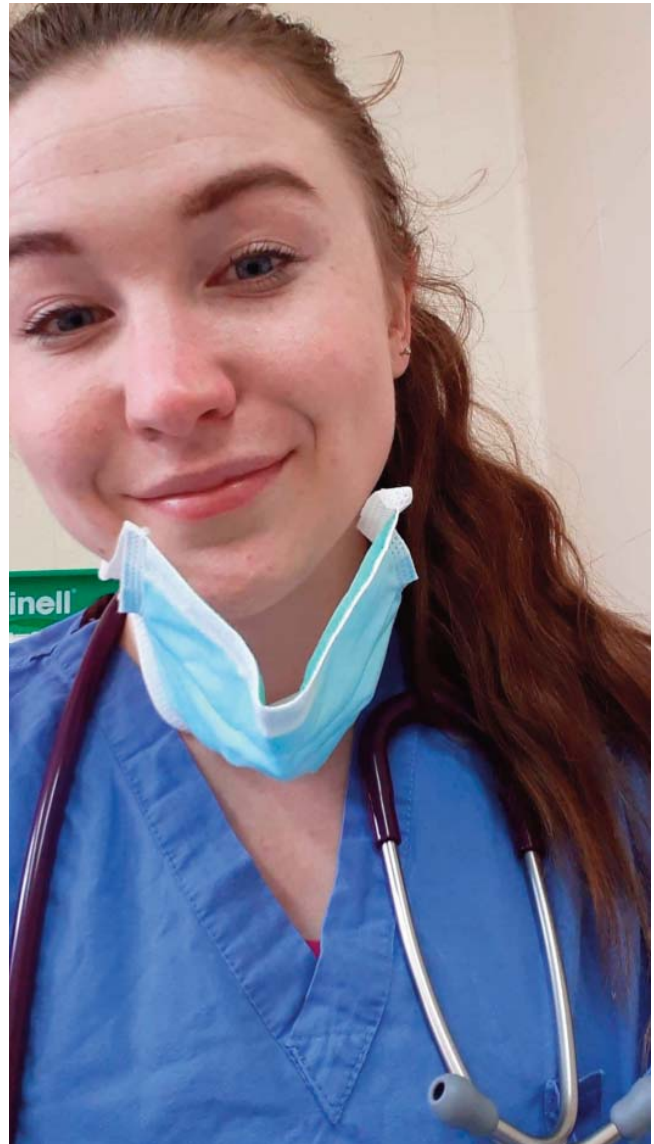
They also continue to use the sports hall, the gym, the tennis courts, the sports field and it has been a benefit to them when Mr Muckalt has been on duty to provide help and advice with routines for daily activities and exercise.

With lockdown restrictions easing, it has been easier to take the boarders to the local supermarket in order for them to stock up on supplies and they have clearly relished this opportunity. Their cooking skills have undoubtedly improved with some fascinating aromas coming from the kitchen during the evening.



Dr Alice Oatham

For those who remember Alice and Rosie Oatham who left in 2015, Alice has just passed and is a fully fledged doctor. She is already displaying the bravery and commitment to the role that a true Luctonian would do; she is currently already working at QE Hospital Birmingham which has had some of the highest number of Covid-19 cases in Europe! Wow, we salute you and your colleagues Alice. (below, Alice with a colleague at QE Birmingham).



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From the Headmistress

and there are also some other staff leaving at the end of this school year who will not



be immediately replaced. The savings will not impact on the delivery of the education and will ensure that the finances remain sound.

The trustees and the school's leaders all believe that next year will see a drop in international income, which we expect largely to come back the following year. So we have put in place steps to reduce costs considerably for the next 12 months to ensure that the school remains strong and is well placed to welcome back larger numbers of boarding students the following year.

With very best wishes to you all!

Keep safe!

Floreat Luctona!

Mrs Thorne.

Nursery facetime

During this lockdown period Jo has been facetimeing children from the Little Ladybirds group. This week Jo, Rohan, Benjy and Oliver celebrated Imogen Siddall's 3rd birthday. We all made cakes at home in preparation, sang Happy Birthday and listened to the story of Kipper's Birthday, where Kipper the dog had to wait a bit longer to have his birthday party, due to a party invitation mishap. Children are having to wait a bit longer to celebrate these special occasions at the moment, but I am sure that eventually we will be able to celebrate all together.



Tristan's key-worker poster

I thought you might like to see Tristan Watts' poster to thank the NHS and key workers which he completed at home last week. *Mrs Bassett.*



Merits for last week by House	House	Merits	Demerits	Effective Merits	
Year 6 to Year 13 Inclusive From: 17th May To: 22nd May	Collingwood	77	0	77	1st
	Drake	53	0	53	3rd
	Nelson	52	0	52	4th
	Rodney	71	0	71	2nd

Announcing Lucton School's first Virtual Open Day

Whilst we certainly hope that we will be able to welcome everyone back into school very soon, we need to continue with the process of introducing the very special educational offering we have here at Lucton to even more families and in the current circumstances, this looks like the way to go.

Lucton's admissions team have been busily preparing materials, choosing the

best platform for the process and are currently engaged in the best ways to improve awareness.

As well as providing new families with the opportunity to learn about all we have to offer at Lucton, please consider this as a chance to learn a little more about the next stage of your child's journey through the school.

There will be some archive videos and some new material is being produced, together with the opportunity for one-to-one questions on the different parts of the school. It will be interesting and maybe not quite perfect, but in the current situation, we believe that this is the best way to ensure more families learn about Lucton.

LUCTON

VIRTUAL OPEN DAY

Mon 15 June

**01568 782000 or email:
admissions@luctonschool.org**

Form Quiz 22nd May

1. Who wrote Sense and Sensibility?
2. What is the capital of Nigeria?
3. Which river runs through Newcastle?
4. In the Battle of Hastings, who led the Norman-French army?
5. What colour does copper burn?
6. Which famous artist created images of Marilyn Monroe?
7. Who was Queen's lead singer?

8. Opal, peridot and topaz are all types of what?
9. How many disciples did Jesus have?
10. Katherine Hepburn won the most Oscars of all time. How many did she win?

Last week's answers:

1. Berlin.
2. Macbeth
3. Amazon.
4. Bitcoin.
5. Red.
6. Wind.
7. Internet browsers.
8. Soviets v Germans.
9. Boxing.
10. Horseracing.

Equestrian News Jake's Blog

The weather has changed again this week just in time for half term! We hope it will get better again soon. Squirrel and Jig are back in from holiday and Charlie, Des and Alfie are on holiday for the week. We have a lovely poster in the tack room from Livia which she has done for her Pony Club work!

We are hopeful that we can start to do some lessons as well soon as we have all missed you and the variety of work and people! Have a great half term and see you soon - please all stay safe and well!

