



Making plans for the first steps back



Whilst we have not exactly closed our doors at any point during the last few months, we are now working our way through checklists and risk assessments so that we may welcome back a handful of extra pupils on the first step of the road to a full school.

As you can see from the rounders game I photographed this week, the children of key workers have been here throughout, including the Easter break and of course we have a group of boarders who are not being mixed with the day children as an extra precaution.

Exactly what we will be able to manage on the 1st of June is still not clear and once we have the responses from parents of Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, and have a good idea of how many children intend to return after half term, we will be better placed to finalise the risk assessments and complete the work on the staffing requirements. Things appear to change very quickly at the moment and all the families involved in this first stage will receive regular updates as plans become clearer.

Keep safe!

Floreat Luctona, Mrs Thorne

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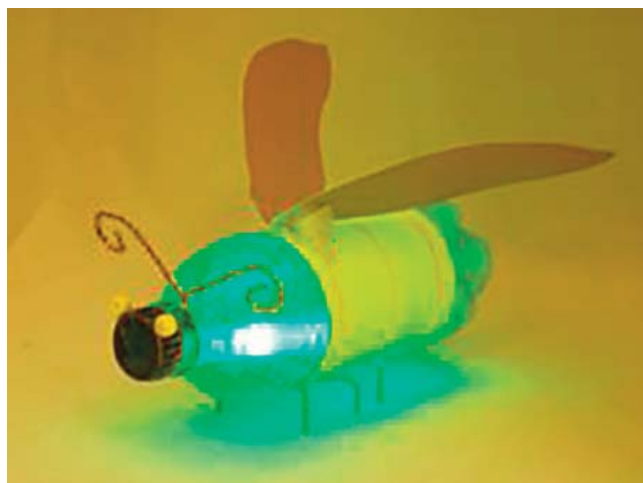
Prep School News

Well the Prep School has been holding some online Form Time and it has been quite a lot of fun. The main aim has been to try and keep up the children's well-being. It is difficult being away from friends but every little bit helps and we aim to do some more. There are a few problems of course, computer access, and internet speed being the technical ones and then trying not to talk over friends because then, we can't hear each other but we hope that it brought a sense of community to all. On a less positive note, I understand that some of the packs have been delayed or are reaching families at different times; indeed, I have heard that two weeks' worth landed in at one household. I can assure you that the class packs are posted at the same time so please bear with the Royal Mail and you may end up with two sets at once; however, do let us know by email and we will set a few more online tasks to tide you over.

Meanwhile, at school there has been some baking of gingerbreads – or were they muffins? I was amazed to find out that the pith of Elder branches is very soft. So if you cut off a thin branch – about the

thickness of a pencil – then cut cm long strips, push out the pith and then put them on string or wool; voilà, you have a necklace or bracelet and either look like a surfer dude or the height of sophistication. Do keep sending in photos so that we can share them with the rest of the community. In the meantime, keep well and let us all pray that this virus continues to loosen its grip.

Now to the weekly Prep Challenge. Last week it was build a boat so this week...use household recycling or natural materials to make a largescale minibeast. What is it called? Where does it live and what does it eat? Go on, see what you can do here is an example made from a plastic bottle.





Above: Year 4 online chat



Another Day in Paradise

During lockdown the Prep School has been looking after children of keyworkers. Today they did, amongst other learning and play, a picture of paradise.



Nursery Creative Activities

Today Rohan, Tommy and Hugo have been busy using old tins and other bits and pieces to make birds.

The boys had fun making these.



Mr Wall raises over £1000 for Guide Dogs

Mr Wall, who has recently been undergoing surgery to improve his sight, has been raising awareness of the challenges people with similar conditions are facing, such as following social distancing guidance when they can't see.

Mr Wall raised £1,000 for Guide Dogs as he took part in the charity's 'Walk Your Socks Off' challenge earlier this month.

The challenge asks participants to set a personal step target in a chosen week in May, which they can achieve at home or under current government guidelines, and raise funds through sponsorship.

Mr Wall suffers from a sight condition called Keratoconus, which affects the cornea. He said: "I'm a big fan of dogs, but I'm also struggling with my own eyesight so wanted to do something to help those in

a similar position."

Mr Wall had a cornea transplant in his right eye and hopes that his sight will be drastically improved once he has also had a transplant in his left eye and can start wearing contact lenses again.

He added: "It's bad enough for me, but if you're permanently in a worse state than I am, it must be really difficult.

"I can relate to the challenges people with sight loss are facing at this time, such as following social distancing guidance when you can't see.

"I am so grateful to the ophthalmology team at Worcester Hospital and at BBR in Hereford, for their excellent care; they have really gone above and beyond during this difficult lockdown time."

He managed to meet his target of 150,000 steps by using his exercise bike at home and going for a walk once a day in the lanes around the village with Mrs Wall.

The money will help charity continue its work, and a spokesperson said it costs £57,000 to train and support a guide dog partnership throughout the life of the dog.



Baking Gingerbread Men

This week, the key workers' children went into the Dining Hall to make gingerbread men. Then after they had been baked, we all set about decorating them back in our classrooms.



Dancing in the Memorial Hall

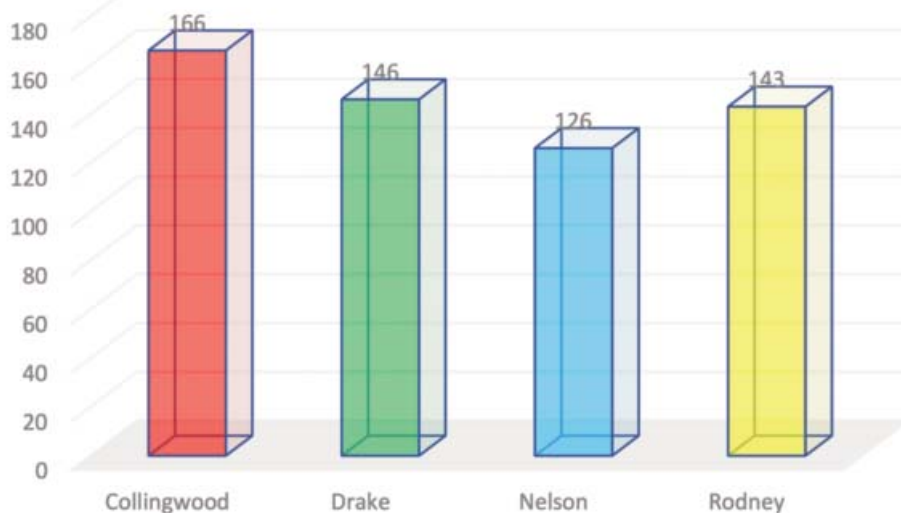
Middle & Senior School key worker students at school this week.



Total Merits for last week by House

Year 6 to Year 13 Inclusive

From: 9-May-20
To: 15-May-20



Thank You posters

In recognition of our fantastic NHS and key workers, the art students of Years 6 to 9 were asked by Mrs Cunningham to create a Thank You poster to express their thanks

and support.

As you can see from these examples, they did a great job, whether hand drawn and painted or designed on computer.

The final pieces can be seen in windows throughout Herefordshire and beyond.



Nursery News

Nursery staff are still thinking of ways to keep in contact with parents and children. We would love to hear from you. Please feel free to send us letters, pictures and photos in the post. This lovely picture is from Una Hanly. Nursery staff are also adding ideas onto a local Facebook page called Messy Monkey Parties; please take a look.



Form Quiz 8th May

1. What is the capital of Germany?
2. Which Shakespearean book features three witches in its opening scene?
3. What is the name of the river that runs through Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador?
4. Which crypto-currency has an unknown inventor?
5. In Maths, the area of a circle is πr^2 . What is r ?
6. In an orchestra, which section would you find a saxophone in?
7. Opera, Edge, Lynx and Konqueror are all types of what?

8. Who fought at the Battle of Kursk?
9. Joe Lewis has the most title defenses for which sport?
10. Which sport still uses furlong as a unit of measurement?

Last week's answers:

1. *The White Rabbit.*
2. *A fish.*
3. *The Dominican Republic.*
4. *Hannibal.*
5. *17.*
6. *Gordon Brown.*
7. *Pasta.*
8. *JM Barrie.*
9. *75.*
10. *Sitar.*

Equestrian News

Following the first signs of lockdown relaxation, we are looking into the possibility of re-starting lessons with appropriate social distancing. It means that riders and horses will not be able to overlap at the stables and parents will need to stay in their vehicles. Full details will be announced once the risk assessments and staffing arrangements have been finalised.

Jake's Blog

Charlie, Jig and I, are with Cirro for a break and the rest are still ticking over but still no jumping! We had a lovely message from Paddy and Marlene saying they are well and hope we all are!

The key workers in the Prep School made us some lovely bunting for VE Day which we have proudly put up at the entrance to the yard! Des is enjoying being back in work with Miss Griffiths, saying he's the best horse on the yard except maybe for Princess Zola! Miss Annette has been giving us baths so we are all shining! We are all ready and waiting for you when you come back!

