

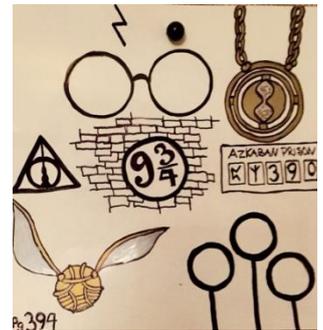


Learning-Laughing-Achieving

Another week has passed at what feels like an alarming speed. We have been busy at school preparing to welcome our year 6 pupils back after half-term. It has certainly been a lot busier over the last week with an increase in cars on the road as people return to work and people being allowed to socialise with a friend. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the governments message to 'Stay Alert.' It is important that we remember to follow the social distancing and handwashing guidelines to protect our community and keep each other safe; even more so as many people are becoming more relaxed.

Home learning over half-term

Next week is half-term and for many it will be a welcome break from tackling the home learning. We would like to reassure you that there is no expectation for your child to complete home learning during half-term. We do have home learning activities on the Mill Rythe website for each year group; these are activity ideas which may be fun to do during half-term rather than the usual formal learning. There are ideas for a Harry Potter theme week under the heading family activities which may be fun to complete together if anyone fancies whipping up a potion?!



Join in with the Times Table Rock Stars world record attempt

I am aware that many pupils are enjoying playing on Times Table Rock Stars and some are being very competitive trying to achieve the highest score on the leader board for their class. Times Table Rock Stars are inviting users to attempt a Guinness World Records title by answering as many questions correctly as possible within one minute. The winner will earn themselves the title of 'Highest score achieved on 'Times Table Rock Stars.' Please see the letter attached with this email for further detail on how to enter your own world record attempt.

Mental health and well-being

Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Educational Psychology (HIEP) department are running a daily telephone support line for parents and carers to provide support and guidance regarding the emotional wellbeing of children and their families. When you call, a member of the team will take your details and arrange for an educational psychologist to call you back. They are there to listen and to support you with any issues that might be concerning you regarding the emotional well being of your child. It may be that you are calling about a specific issue or you can call and talk through what has been happening for your child.

Please contact HIEP on 02392 441497 weekdays between 9:30 – 12:30 and 1:00 – 4:00pm. See the attachment with this email for further details.

Online Safety

Can you name the Apps in the icon's below?



These are all popular Apps which we are aware many of our pupils use. During this time, many children are spending longer looking at screens for both their home learning and for entertainment. It is vital that you have a good understanding of what your child is doing online. Visit the NSPCC website using the link below to find out more about popular apps. This website provides you with further information about each app, how to set up parental controls and a rating which will enable you to assess whether you feel the App is appropriate for your child. Many of these Apps, for example, TikTok have ratings which are 13+. See the example below for the sort of information which can be found on the website:

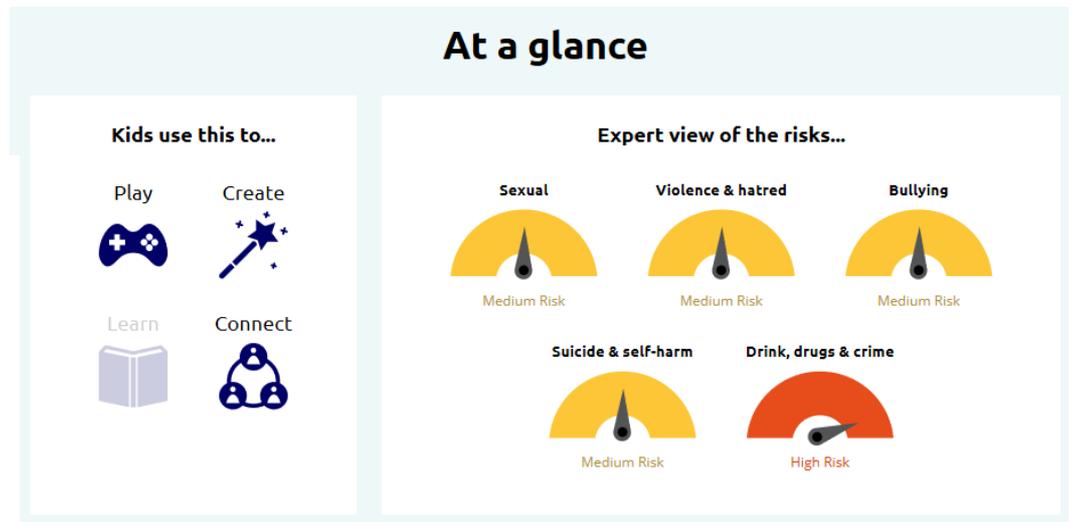
[NSPCC – Lets keep kids safe online. Social networks, apps and games](#)



13+ Official age rating

TikTok

TikTok (formerly called Musical.ly) is a social media platform that lets you create, share and discover 60 second videos. You can use music and effects to enhance your videos and you can also browse other people's videos and interact with them.



Trick Box

The more confident experiences we have the more confident we act and feel. Even when we imagine being confident our minds and bodies respond as if that is really happening right now. We can use our imagination to help us feel confident in real life. This week's trick box is to help children build their confidence, please see the attachment with this email for further details.



Phone calls home..

Our teachers have enjoyed catching up with everyone over the last two weeks. Please see below for a summary of what each class have been up to. We are missing a few classes this week because we have teachers having half-term in lieu so that we can be open next week for our key workers.

3IC

As we look back over this last half term, we just wanted to say how very proud we are of 3IC. We have loved talking to you on the phone and hearing all about the things you have been doing with your families. We have been amazed at your creativity; you've made cakes, built things, painted pictures and planned for VE day celebrations on your driveway. We have been stunned to hear about your bravery and determination as you've learnt new skills such as riding your bikes without stabilisers, telling the time, tying your shoelaces or learning to play an instrument. We have been impressed by your new found independence and how you are learning to take responsibility for your lessons. Most importantly we have been impressed by your resilience and how well you have all coped with this new way of learning and shown us what superstars you are! We both miss seeing you all but we know you and your parents are doing a great job at home. Enjoy your half term break, you have well and truly earned it.



3SW

I have really enjoyed speaking to our class again last week and this week. It is so lovely hearing what everyone is getting up to. Well done to everyone keeping up with their home learning. As time goes on I understand how hard it is, but I have been so proud to hear about the bits you have been doing. I also really love hearing about all the fun stuff that you have been doing. Connor has been having water fights in the garden and playing with the sprinkler and paddling pool and Bailey has read me some fantastic stories. There has been quite a bit of baking going on too! Wyatt has been making banana bread and cookies and Elsie made a Victoria chocolate sponge cake. I do hope I get to taste their baking soon! Finally, Leo had a great idea to write down all of the things he is looking forward to in the future, something that I have now done as well! Keep smiling 3SW, we are so proud of you all.

4SH

It has been wonderful catching up with families this week and hearing about all the fun things you've been up to as well as showing a continued dedication and resilience for your home learning. Sophia gave me an amazing performance of 'Better half of me' by Tom Walker down the phone. Luca has tadpoles in his garden he is keeping an eye on and caterpillars that he is hoping to see transform into butterflies. Tilly's dad has made her a tuck shop so she has been practising her money skills by selling sweets to her brothers. It has been lovely to hear how lots of you are staying in contact too. Alivia and Tilly made a surprise social distance call with sweets to Anais who had her 9th birthday on May 11th so a big birthday shout to her! Molly was able to see her nan for the first time since lockdown began and they went on a socially distanced walk together. Keep going 4SH and chat to more of you very soon.

4AT

As always, it has been lovely to speak to children and their families. I am so impressed by the work children continue to produce. I enjoyed reading Jonny's newsletter that he sent in, he has been very busy! Just a reminder that you should all be doing a timestable rockstars **sound check** each week- I think some of us may be forgetting.

I enjoy hearing about all the other things that you have been doing after your school work. I know lots of you are keeping fit with bike rides and walks. The gardeners amongst you are starting to see your plants and vegetables grow and the bakers and artists are perfecting their skills. Tilly has even turned to a spot of photography, catching shots of all the wildlife in the garden.

We are still waiting for Seb's stick insects to hatch, hopefully when I speak to him next he will give us an update. Other exciting pet news, Maxim and Oliver came home to a lovely surprise- A PUPPY! A fantastic addition to their family.

A huge well done to all the children and families for your continued hard work in everything you are doing at home. Keep it up, keep smiling and stay safe. Hopefully I will see you all soon.

4MC

It sounds like another great week for 4MC! I've enjoyed talking to my class this week and hearing what they have been up to. I am super proud of them for keeping up with as much as they can and for their determination to really trying to stick to things despite these tough times. Skye sent me a brilliant poem. It made me giggle as I read it because she had created funny images of herself and her sister. She had tried really hard to get a regular rhyme and rhythm to her poem - 2 things I find really

hard to do so well-done Skye! Olivia had been busy baking some delicious cakes once again! I really must get her to give me some of the recipes! I don't think mine would turn out so well though!

I hadn't managed to speak to Imogen for a little while so it was lovely to catch up her! She had been busy completing her home learning as usual but said she was now really starting to miss her friends and is looking forward to seeing them again soon. Bella had also been working hard on her home learning but said she had enjoyed spending some time in the pool in the afternoon. Ava celebrated a birthday in the last week. She enjoyed being a princess for the day and even had a chocolate fountain! It sounded great fun! She was currently enjoying reading the book that was meant to have been our class reader this term so I'm looking forward to hearing all about it once she has finished! Have a great half term 4MC and look forward to catching up with more of you soon!

5JH

I am pleased to report everyone is happy and healthy, working hard from home. The feedback on Oak Lands Academy has been very positive. Tamsin became the teacher today as such recounted the 'not very nice King John' who was prepared to sell London to anyone who would have bought it! She also told me how he lost most of the French land owned by England. I was delighted at how much she had retained! This week the mantel of Baking Queen goes to Elisha. She has been making brownies, chocolate cakes and a Victoria sponge. Don't be surprised if she turns up on Junior Baker Off in the future. Ruby read me her magical tale of the Unichorse - a cross between a Unicorn, Chicken and Horse. Her language choices painted a vivid picture in my mind. It was a marvellous, mixed genre tale. Great work Ruby! Seb has been working hard trying to keep Senna off the top spot on TTRS, he has juggled this along with all his school work, helping his parents around the house and cycling, running and walking up to 7 miles. He must be exhausted at the end of the day! Olivia has turned her attention to the crafts and has been cutting up old clothes to make bunting. She has also been honing her art skills to produce an amazing life drawing. Someone else who has been cutting up clothes is Josephine, this time to make protective face masks. She has been decorating them with motivational slogans. Finally, a belated Happy Birthday to Daisy who celebrated her 10th birthday at home 'It was surprisingly really cool. I even got presents which I didn't expect!' Until next week. Stay safe and stay cool! HRH x

6SG

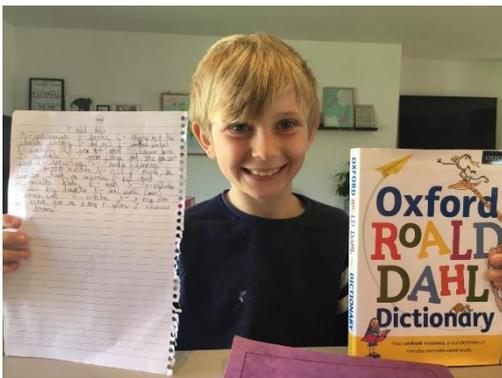
Another fortnight has passed and another birthday too: Charley, whose special day landed on the 75th anniversary of VE day, got to celebrate with the rest of his street which I'm sure will be something he will remember for a very long time! Lots of the children marked this occasion either with a socially distant street party or in their own home with their family. What really struck me was just how thoughtful my class were when talking about it. I thought that when I asked, the children would be preoccupied with telling me about the sandwiches and cake they'd eaten but so many told me that they'd taken part in the two minute silence to think about what had happened all those years ago and remember those who had died. Elliott had even spent his week learning all about World War Two with his family. As the weather has got hotter, paddling pools seem to be quite popular and many are enjoying a little more freedom to go out and about more than once a day for a walk or ride on their bike- I know I am. Seeing the plants bloom, the birds collecting for their nests and the ducklings swimming around in the local streams has really helped me to feel a normality and calmness amongst all of the uncertainty.

6GR

I have loved talking to the parents and children of 6GR again over the last couple of weeks. It is far less awkward talking to the children on the phone now- I think in the first few weeks they found it very strange and uncomfortable but now our conversations are as they would be in school- I struggle to get a word in edgeways with some of them!

It is lovely to hear that the children are building memories in this difficult time; something I know I am going to remember for a long time is phoning to speak to Archie- his mum answered and politely asked me to call back later in the week as she was currently in hospital having her baby!

A huge congratulations on your baby brother, Archie! As always, I had a lovely conversation with Jess who told me she had been making cakes for her mum and dad's birthdays. Everyone loves a Jess Stanbrook cupcake- they're famous in the staffroom! It has been lovely spending time with Katie, Lexie and Elsie in school- Elsie has kept me entertained with stories about her dogs, her new fish, her new house... that young lady can talk for hours! I am so excited to see the children after half term- I hate to admit it, but I have missed them so much! I know they have missed me too- especially Cam. We can finally have that hoola hoop competition Cam- I hope you've been practising! 6GR, enjoy your last week at home before school starts again. I can't wait to see you all!



Becky Vousden
Deputy Headteacher