



Jerounds Journal

'Do not confine your children to your own learning, for they were born in another time'
(Hebrew proverb)

Dear Parents/Carers,

Unsurprisingly, we have now had two extremely successful weeks with EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6 children settling well, back into the rigours of school life and the ingrained high expectations we have at Jerounds for teaching and learning. Likewise, it has been most humbling and a constant source of joy to see our teachers and support staff taking such immense pleasure in nurturing and inspiring the next generation of curious and eager minds. #JeroundsCommunity. Equally, a sincere thank you to those parents who have written in to the school office offering gratitude for the staff's conscious efforts to reduce risk and implement such a positive impact upon a return to formal learning at school.

Other news this week, centres around closing the literacy gap during such challenging times. Moreover, I wanted to explicitly share with you some important messages that Mrs Bell, our English Lead and I, learnt during a webinar, that we attended on Saturday 6th June, regarding the 'Literacy Gap' and how we need to address this growing concern.

Initially, the session started with such a stark array of statistics, that the 'virtual' mood and marked silence of every attendee was palpable: Only 31% of young children are read to daily at home; 1 in 8 from disadvantaged homes do not possess any books whatsoever; 25% of 15-year old pupils have a reading age of 12; 53% of children said they enjoyed reading; just a quarter of under-18s read each day. The list continued. Yet, grimmest statistic of all was that the fact still remains, there is a significant correlation between a pupil's reading ability and GCSE results across all subjects (The New Group reading Test). Notably, as the session continued, there was a distinct note of hope and 'we can fix this' attitude, that left every teacher feeling rightly positive and able to make a marked difference over the coming months. Some of which I would like to share with you now.

We all acknowledge that there are severe literacy challenges facing both teachers and parents during lockdown:

- developing reading for pleasure
- ensuring pupils can access reading/vocabulary
- ensuring pupils access literacy instruction
- developing reading for pleasure and increase reading practice supporting the most vulnerable pupils to not fall behind

'We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit'
(Aristotle)

Understandably, the most useful way of tackling the literacy gap is to simply read and read some more. It is alleged by scientist that an act maintained for a three week period, will become habit-forming and should thus, in this instance, make the initial onerous and laborious task of learning synthetic sounds and decoding text less daunting. In fact, daily practice will very quickly give children access to a whole new way of communicating and accessing the curious world around them. **Perfect practice** however, is even more beneficial and will guarantee that children acquire a way to read strategically - comprehending what is written and how the language features and structure of a text also add meaning and purpose. Skills such as: skimming, scanning, rereading, checking the index, glossary or scaffolds, asking questions, summarising, noticing patterns and text structures and of course, reading related texts. These skills all add a deeper meaning to a reader's understanding of a text. That said, there is still an even greater need for children to engage with **vocabulary**, since this will be a precursor for increasing their knowledge of the world and ably prepare them for more technical language associated with all secondary school syllabuses.

KNOWLEDGE + STRATEGY = SKILLED READING

If we have learnt one essential quality from the COVID-19 pandemic it is that parents have now learnt about the language of learning. I have heard parents talking about 'pedagogy' and 'meta-cognition' - all technical terms associated with education and teaching. Moreover, parents have discovered that learning is hard work and it takes the expertise of teachers, who have after all trained between 3-4 years to acquire these skills - in order to impart knowledge effectively to children. Unquestionably, our parents have been fantastic and immensely supportive throughout this entire experience and we have been overwhelmed by the commitment shown by parents to facilitate learning for their children. Bravo parents/carers! -

As a result, and in the spirit of this collective effort, we would like to suggest further online resources to assist parents with reading and vocabulary development:

Literacy with Miss P @SadiePhillips
<https://describingwords.io/> (describing words)

Both of these websites, coupled with lots of talking with your children, will assist with vocabulary knowledge and comprehension: talk, find, define, use (verbally and written), compare and remember! Remember, reading with your child daily, will be the most valuable resource that you can give your child and prepare them for accessing the school curriculum.

'Never let the future disturb you. You will meet it, if you have to, with the same weapons of reason which today arm you against the present'

(Marcus Aurelius, Meditations)

We would like to wish you all a 'sunny' weekend full of family joy and look forward to welcoming many more of our children back to school from Years EYFS, 1 and 6, next week, alongside our key worker and vulnerable children.

With best wishes,
Mrs Laura Ciftci BA (Hons) MEd
Head of School



Saracens Sports Foundation News

The Foundation currently have an online programme called the '#TogetherActive Series' which is free online content for our participants within Rugby, Dance & Sport Skills. If the students would like to participate in our online videos whether that be in school as part of their lesson or at home, please visit the link below to see all videos.

There are many videos to choose from to keep the children active and having fun with us!

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=together+active+saracens+sports+foundation



Return to school resources from Place2Be

Place2Be has put together a series of resources focused on community recovery, to help headteachers, school staff and parents beginning to bring their schools and community back together.

Drawing on themes including hope, gratitude and connectedness, these activity ideas are intended as a universal resource for all children as starting points to promote emotional wellbeing and resilience for all.

Download the Primary Resources: <https://www.place2be.org.uk/media/yesltwzt/primaryschoolresources.pdf>



Summer Reading Challenge

The national Summer Reading Challenge is moving online!

Go to <http://www.silysquad.org.uk/> and sign up.

The sign up process will require parental consent and parents can find more details here: <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/parents-carers>

What you need to do:

- Set your own reading goals over the summer and start reading - Harlow library will be reopening soon and also you have the option of online lending in the mean-time.
- Each time you finish a book, add it to your profile and write a review.
- You will then be rewarded with activities, badges and videos.
- At the end of the reading challenge you will receive a certificate.



Weekly updates

EYFS

It has been another fantastic week in school, we are so proud of how well you have all settled in. This week the children in school have been busy learning all about sports and have had great fun creating their own balls in art. We are so proud of how hard you have worked on your reading fluency, so much progress has been made!

Those of you learning at home are also continuing to impress us with your enthusiasm on Tapestry and how well you are engaging with your learning. Please do continue to send us your best home learning, as we love seeing how well you are doing at home. Please do take time to look at this years Summer reading challenge it will be a fantastic opportunity to dive into reading and to keep developing fluency. The national Summer Reading Challenge can be accessed at <http://www.sillysquad.org.uk/>.

Keep up the great work everyone!



Year 1

It has been another fantastic week in school, we are so proud of how well you have all settled in. This week the children in school have been busy painting in the style of Wassily Kandinsky, retelling the story of 'bubbles', making pizzas, checking on the runner beans (most of which now have a root). We are so proud of how hard you have worked on your reading fluency, so much progress has been made! The children have also enjoyed practising their ball control skills and making chromatography flowers.

Those of you learning at home are also continuing to impress us with your enthusiasm on Seesaw and how well you are engaging with your learning. Please do continue to send us your best home learning, as we love seeing how well you are doing at home.

Keep up the great work everyone!

Year 2

We hope you have had a great week, continuing to practise your times tables, reading and carrying out the activities we have set for you.

This week at school, we have been writing short stories, in English. The children acted out the story first and then wrote sentences, including adjectives and conjunctions. We also made cheese and tomato pizzas and focused on an artist called Wassily Kandinsky. The children recreated one of his famous paintings and focused on making colours lighter and darker when using white and black.

In maths, we have been learning about capacity and the children used cups and filled them with water to show when they were full, half full, nearly full and nearly empty.

Remember to upload a writing, reasoning and problem-solving piece of work onto seesaw. As well as using seesaw and the Learning Project activities, you can also have a look on the BBC website, as they have many daily lessons in every subject.

We have included the link below:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach>

We hope you have a great weekend and we know sometimes it can be hard to keep going, especially when you are finding something difficult but remember to never give up and always try your best.

We are very proud of you all.



Year 3

We are seeing some fantastic work both in school and on Seesaw. Please keep this up. Well done to all that are engaging with the activities being set. Please look out next week for more Maths and English tasks that will be uploaded for you to complete.

Keep up the hard work everyone we are really proud of your perseverance.

Year 4

It's been another busy week for learning in school and at home. We've been working hard to improve our stamina for writing and it has been great to see so many amazing pieces of writing. Likewise it has been fantastic to see more children engaging with TT Rockstars, I'm sure we'll have more Rock Heroes very soon.

You will notice a change with SeeSaw this week as we upload 4 maths and English tasks, Monday to Thursday with a Topic task on a Friday. Also, it has been lovely to see so many of you logging in to listen to us reading. Look out this week as we start a new story. As always log in whenever works best for you and your family ensuring you take plenty of breaks and time to relax throughout the week. On a Friday we will take down the week's Maths and English work so that we are all able to enjoy a rest over the weekend, topic will be left on for a week. Remember to work at your own pace and read whenever you can.

Have a great week.

Year 5

Year 5 have been working hard both in school and at home this week.

Those that have been coming in as part of the Key Worker group have been lucky enough to have creative writing lessons with Mrs Todd in the afternoons. She has been impressed with their literal and inference questions, their use of vocabulary and increase in confidence when reading aloud. With Mr Watson in Maths, Year 5 have worked hard on learning how to convert fractions into decimal numbers. They have managed to use a calculator to check their answers and have become decimal wizards. They have adapted to the new school routine brilliantly and have been enjoying making new friends from other classes and year groups.

As for those learning at home on Seesaw, it has been a pleasure for us to listen to the children read aloud, both Harry Potter as well as their own writing. The children were tasked with creating their own machine and we were blown away by the responses! One in particular stood out with its focus on helping the environment by turning plastic into building materials! Also, year 5 have been increasing their knowledge in topic of modern slavery and were astonished that slavery still exists today!

The Summer Reading Challenge organised by the library is up and running, it would be brilliant for the children to check it out! <http://www.sillysquad.org.uk/>. Also, another little something that may be of interest over the next few weeks is the Blue Peter 6 Badges of Summer. It is a range of activities split into 6 categories, including sport and the environment, that you can take part in to earn badges. Find out more here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/joinin/six-badges-of-summer>.

Keep up the hard work everyone, we are so proud of how you have continue to persevere.



Year 6

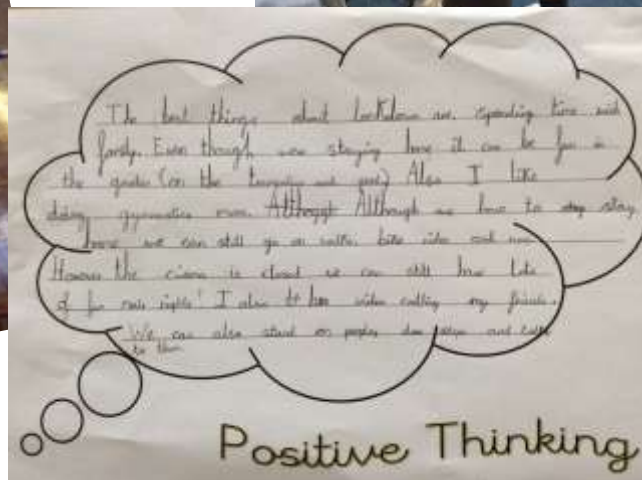
We have had a really busy week both in school and online. This week we have not only completed our arithmetic and problem solving but we have also been competing in our inter-house

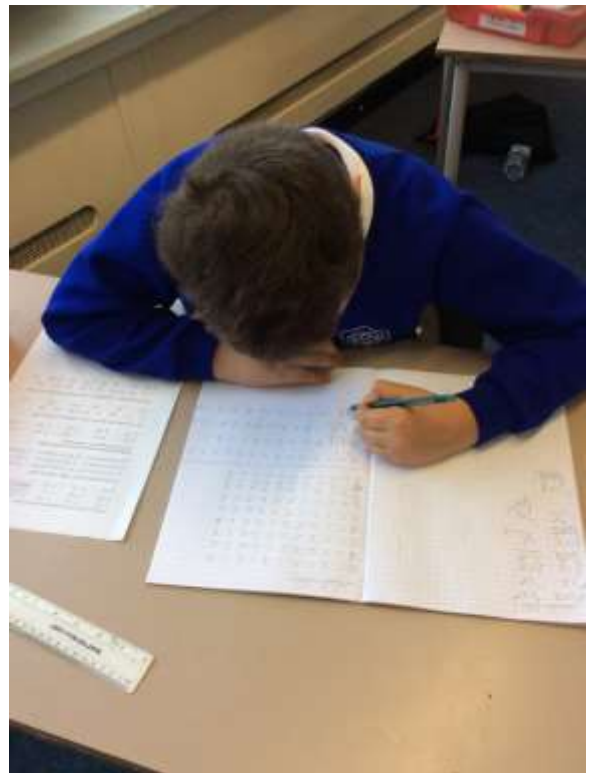
TTRockstars competition! I hope you are all enjoying reading Stormbreaker, it has really got to the exciting part now - we will be reading Chapters 10 and 11 over the next week.

Next week, we are going to be adding PowerPoint videos to Seesaw to ensure that those of you who are learning from home will be receiving the exact same work as those of you in school. We will be uploading one English and one maths PowerPoint per day Monday - Thursday, with voiceover guidance on your tasks - so make sure you turn on the volume! If you are learning from home please ensure that you respond to this, uploading your completed work for us to see. You will also still receive one topic and one reading task per week to respond to - again these are the same as we are completing in school.

We are so proud of how well you have all adapted to this new way of learning and are excited to see more of you in school next week.

Our week in school







Year 3 Free School Meals

Is your child moving up to year 3 this September? Universal free school meals now stop at the end of year 2, you therefore may be entitled to free school meals. Please read the criteria below and click on the link if you fall into one of the categories.

https://essex-self.achieveservice.com/service/Free_School_Meals_application

Free School Meals

Is your child in Year 2 and starting Year 3 in September 2020?

Do you receive one of the following?

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (not Working Tax Credit), with an annual income below £16,190
- Pension Guarantee Credit
- Employment and Support Allowance, income related
- Support under part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act, 1999
- Working Tax Credit run-on, paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit, with a household income of £7,400 or less (after tax and not including any benefits you get).

If so, please apply between 25 July and 10 August to ensure that your application can be considered before the start of term



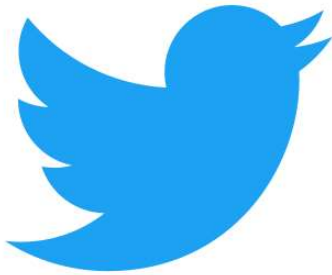
Essex County Council

Keeping in touch



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