



Dear Parents

Friday 22nd January 2021

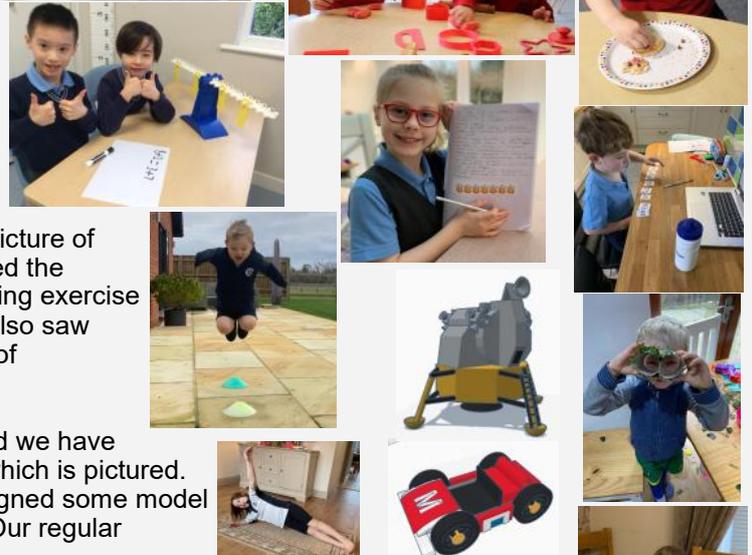
I am sure many children were excited to wake up on Saturday morning with snow falling, only a day after we shared updated plans in the bulletin should adverse weather prevent staff and pupils being able to come into school, as happened in 2018. We received brilliant pictures of home snowmen as well as children undertaking the winter reading challenge in the snow, or cosy inside with a warm drink. There was enough snow left on Monday for a small group of children to build a Town Close snowman on the front lawn.



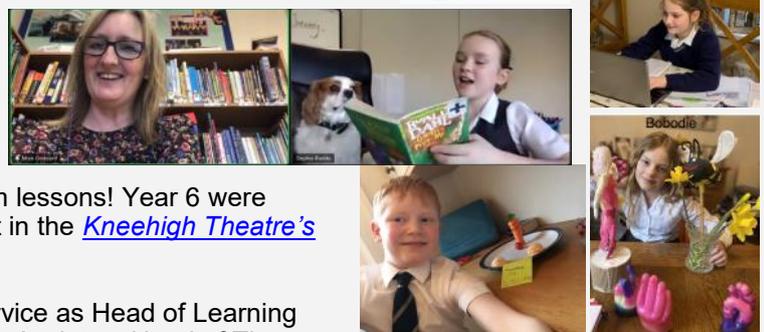
On Monday, Mrs Sims, our new Director of Studies, led assembly for Prep children about kindness, while Headmaster's assembly this morning was about jealousy, led by six volunteers from Year 7&8, all performing from home. Thank you to Sophie, Celeste, Thomas, Milo, Lottie and Sruthi for speaking so eloquently. Polly performed *Peruvian Dance* beautifully on her flute, also from home, while Hannah played *Sabre Dance* with great confidence on her cello. Pre Prep assembly was about honesty and internet safety, told through the story *Webster's Friend*. Bird Families elected new Top Birds in their meetings (congratulations to all the children elected) and we celebrated great work from learners at home and school on the Wonder Wall this morning as well as birthdays and token winners.



Little Acorns were having great fun with scented, glittery, homemade play dough and making snowmen from toast. It was lovely to see the children chatting so happily together at snack time. Year 2 children were exploring all ways to add to 10 or 20 and making number posters. They were also working hard practising handwriting (thank you to Lauren for her photo). Year 1 children were busy in their maths lessons (I saw an excellent picture of Jack's work) and Reception were busy counting penguins. I joined the online and physical Reception groups working on the same reading exercise and was really impressed to see the progress being made. We also saw some impressive home PE, cosmic yoga and even Oscar's pair of homemade binoculars.



Year 7 children have been studying lunar landings in science and we have seen some excellent models using Tinkercad, such as Theo's, which is pictured. This is an application we also use in DT where Year 8 have designed some model Mario Kart racers such as this excellent example from Celeste. Our regular reading has carried on as normal with Miss Goddard hearing a number of readers at home, sometimes with pets joining too! We saw great photos this week of Year 5 children working hard in their Zoom lessons including Millie studying Alaska in geography. I visited Mr Woods leading PE with children in the sports hall and at home and enjoyed seeing everyone on screen participating so enthusiastically. Mr Woods is another member of the staff who is fitter than ever thanks to all his Zoom lessons! Year 6 were creating some impressive characters in drama as they took part in the [Kneehigh Theatre's Windows to the World](#) daily challenge.



Finally, news that Mrs Rymarz, who has given distinguished service as Head of Learning Support since September 2009, is from April to become the new Assistant Head of The Clare School, a specialist physical and sensory complex needs school that provides invaluable education to pupils from 3-19 years. We are very proud that she has been selected for such an important role but will miss her greatly too. Rest assured that Bella will continue to work with the Learning Support Department as a support dog and will be delivered each morning by Mrs Rymarz' daughter. Meanwhile, we are advertising to find a new Head of Learning Support to lead the Department through its next stage.



I wish you all a restful and enjoyable weekend.

*Nick Benington*