



Newsletter

15th January 2021

RESPONSIBILITY

Dear parents and carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well, and that for the majority of our families that the first full week of remote learning has gone well. As was the case in the first lockdown, there is much to communicate with you all, but I do hope that you find some of the resources that we are sharing with you helpful and supportive. It is also with great pride that I share examples of children's excellent work this week that has been sent to me by their teachers.

Home learning

Firstly, I would like to thank you for the effort that families have put in to ensuring that children are accessing the remote learning, as we do appreciate that this is not always easy. As I mentioned in last week's newsletter, the home learning is a requirement and we are monitoring children's level of engagement so that we are able to reach out to families who may be having difficulty and provide support where we can.

Many families have now collected a Chromebook to borrow from school, and if you do still require one please email Mike Gleeson, our school business manager, at sbm@st-lukes.towerhamlets.sch.uk. Please note that we are still limiting this, for the moment, to one device per family to ensure that they are fairly allocated. We will review this position once we feel that most families have the devices that they need. We also have a limited number of 4G routers that we are able to lend out if you do not have broadband connection at home. If you would be interested in borrowing one of these, please email me at headofschool@st-lukes.towerhamlets.sch.uk

Spelling lists and chronologies will be emailed to you at the beginning of next week, and will also be available on the school website.

Finally, please also note that we may try to contact you by phone over the period of lockdown. Not all staff members are on site every day so this call may come from a private number, rather than the school number at this time.

Additional resources

Many companies and websites are providing useful resources to support children's learning, and their families, during lockdown.

The **BBC Bitesize** website comes very highly recommended. It is comprehensive, thorough and engaging and has topics for children of all ages across many areas of the curriculum. Please see what is available through the link below. You can also access this through the main BBC website, and follow the Bitesize link from there.

<https://r1.ddlnk.net/3YNL-18DW3-80DEBD68301C073B2M505261A47EC6C2320B92/cr.aspx>

We also received this email this week from the **Blue Peter** team! Again, this is an educational and engaging resource, which we recommend to families. Below are the details that we received, on how to access this site.

We have launched [Blue Peter on YouTube](#) at CBBC and we were wondering if pupils and parents would be interested in this, for entertainment outside of home-schooling hours now we're in lockdown.

Blue Peter is the longest running kids TV show in the world and we are uploading videos to it that are suitable for 5-11 year olds. We have world record breaking challenges, arts and crafts, environmental videos, cooking and baking how tos, inspirational films, gaming, celebrity appearances, dance routines and music performances. We also feature ways of getting a Blue Peter badge, behind the scenes footage and extra content about our incredible presenters Adam, Lindsey, Mwaksy, Richie and Henry the Blue Peter dog.

Parents can subscribe via <https://www.youtube.com/bluepeter> - (it's obviously completely free to subscribe!) and don't forget to watch the live programme on CBBC at 5.00pm every week, or on BBC iPlayer.

You may also be familiar with **Oak Academy**, a website which provides a vast array of home learning lessons and resources. As with all of these resources, they do not replace the daily remote learning that we are providing, but can complement and extend what your child is learning. Please find the Oak Academy website at <https://www.thenational.academy/>



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Information from Tower Hamlets Parent & Family Support Service

Free virtual sessions for parents in 2021 - Please promote to the families in your school and add to your school website.

Following a very successful programme of virtual sessions for parents in 2020, the Parental Engagement Team has launched a new schedule of sessions for 2021. The sessions have proved to be an invaluable source of support for parents at a time when they may be struggling to navigate the new learning landscape. 100% of the parents who attended said they would recommend the sessions to other parents.

Sessions provide a safe space for parents to share their experiences, ask questions and pick up some handy tips from experienced practitioners. Content includes information about new learning approaches, 'blended learning', tips on supporting learning at home and keeping children safe on-line.

Thursday 19 January	10am- 11am	Maths at Key Stage 1
Tuesday 26 January	10am- 11am	Maths at Key Stage 2
Thursday 28 January	10am- 11am	Learning in the Early Years

Full Details of workshops can be found on www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/localoffer

Parents can book places by emailing parentalengagement@towerhamlets.gov.uk stating the session and date they wish to attend, age and school of child

Free training session on Kooth for children and young people

Kooth offers free, safe and anonymous support for children and young people. The online mental health and wellbeing support service is available in Newham, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest. This [video](#) gives an overview of Kooth.

To give you more information about Kooth and the service it provides, the team at Kooth have arranged a free training session for professionals. The session will take place on Friday 15 January, from 11am-12noon. Access the training using this link: <https://zoom.us/j/2090809759>

There is no password for this session.

Contact details **Diana Viscusi**

Transformation manager | Children's Integrated Commission team

Tel: 07717 516895

Parental Engagement Professionals Network- Supporting Your Work with Families

The Parental Engagement Professionals Network provides an opportunity for all staff working with parents in schools to network, consider the challenges when working with families and share best practice.

Monday 25th January 2021

10:00-11:30am Online zoom session

- Introduction to the Tower Hamlets Play Charter
- Effective communication with families during lockdown
- Information share and networking opportunity-Share good practice and challenges

All places need to be booked and confirmed

Contact details: husna.begum@towerhamlets.gov.uk

parentalengagement@towerhamlets.gov.uk To find out more about the work of the Parent and Family Support Service vis-



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Energy Kidz resources

I have attached a lovely resource sent through to us by Energy Kidz, our after school club provider, with some ideas of fun activities that you can do at home with your child. Please find the PDF attached with all the information.

Remote music after school club

Arts Council England are providing free after school clubs for children interested in anything musical.

Please click on the link below for further details, and to sign up:

<https://preview.mailerlite.com/c4d1r0/1598444319465805679/u0r4/>

Covid trauma support

Finally, the school's Education Psychologist has provided us with details of free Covid related counselling and support available to people who have experienced trauma related to the Covid-19 pandemic.

These sessions are for those experiencing Covid-19 related trauma responses. EMDR is a fairly well evidence based therapeutic approach to trauma. They are free remote sessions, which might be helpful for anyone suffering anxiety as a result of the pandemic. Please click on the link below for further information:

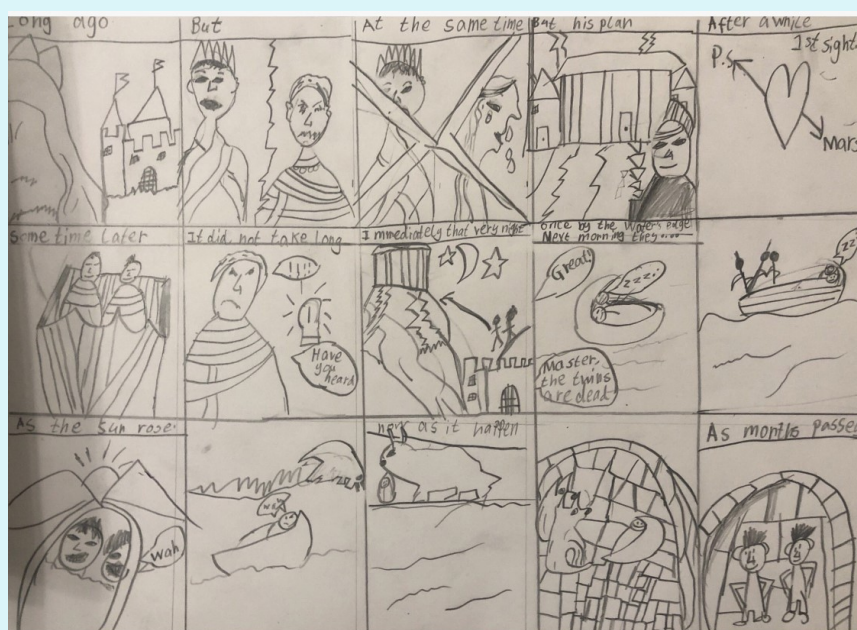
<https://www.traumaresponsenetwork.org/turn-to-us-covid19>

With best wishes,

Cristina King

Head of School

Please see below for some fantastic examples of work submitted by pupils this week. Well done to all of you; you should be very proud of what you have achieved!



This is Ethan Yu's English work in year 3. In English, the children have been learning all about Romulus and Remus. We have looked at the main characters and have written detailed descriptions about them. The activity was to tell the first part of the story as a comic strip. Ethan used some very good time connectives and excellent pictures to retell the story.



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In year 6 the children have been writing autobiographies, and Ms. Lukwesa and Ms. Williams have chosen two excellent examples of writing for me to share with you.

The first is by Javier Grinstead, with these words of praise from his class teacher:

In Year 6 we are learning about autobiographies, and we spent the week planning, writing and editing our own. It has been such a pleasure to read about his life, and to see the huge amount of effort that he has put into his writing from home. He has been working so hard in all of his subjects online, he should be truly proud of himself.

I was born on the 8th July 2010 in the Barkentine Birth centre on the Isle of Dogs. My parents told me that on the day I was born it was one of the hottest days of the year. For the first year of my life, I lived on the Isle of Dogs. My parents and I then moved to the seaside town of Brighton where we lived for six years. I loved to walk along the beach with my family and fish off the harbour with my dad. When I was 7, I moved back to where I was born and started at St Lukes School in year 3. When I arrived in London, I thought to myself wow what a big city this is. I really enjoy living in the city there is so much to do and see. I often go back to Brighton to see my nan and grandad and it brings back memories of living by the sea.

The second is by a child in Willow class, who really impressed Ms. Lukwesa.

In Year 6, we have been writing autobiographies. On Wednesday, we focused on writing our second paragraph about our family. We were working on taking the reader on a journey through our memories and appealing to the reader through the use of humour and/or emotive language. We were all touched by this thoughtful and warm piece of writing.

All About My Family:

Growing up, my family and I lived in a small flat in White chapel, London. My dad originally came to London from Bangladesh. He lived and studied there until his family decided to come to here. Soon after, he found a low-paid job at a restaurant near home. My dad had a friend back home in Bangladesh – who happens to now be my mum – and they were very close so my dad's parents brought her to London and somehow, they got married (I don't remember much). Despite the fact that she was 17, she took good care of my older brothers and I.

Since my parents and grandparents were all from Bangladesh, they spoke Bengali (my brothers could also speak some). My brothers and I used to make fun of the way some of the words sound. Irritably, my grandparents lived with my two older brothers, me and my parents in our tiny cramped flat. I wish we could have moved out but sadly my family were very poor so we couldn't.

My mum was really funny. Every day we would have a time where we all sat down and listen to her funny jokes and riddles. Even though she couldn't speak much English. Talking about English, my mum was also very keen about school. She never wanted us to miss a day. My brothers would always try and teach me new words by reading books with me.



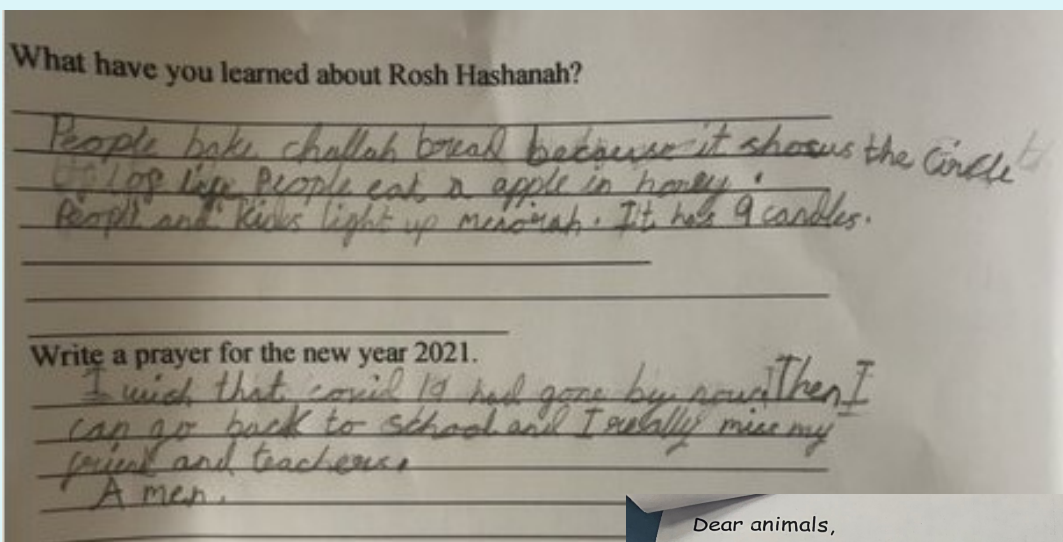
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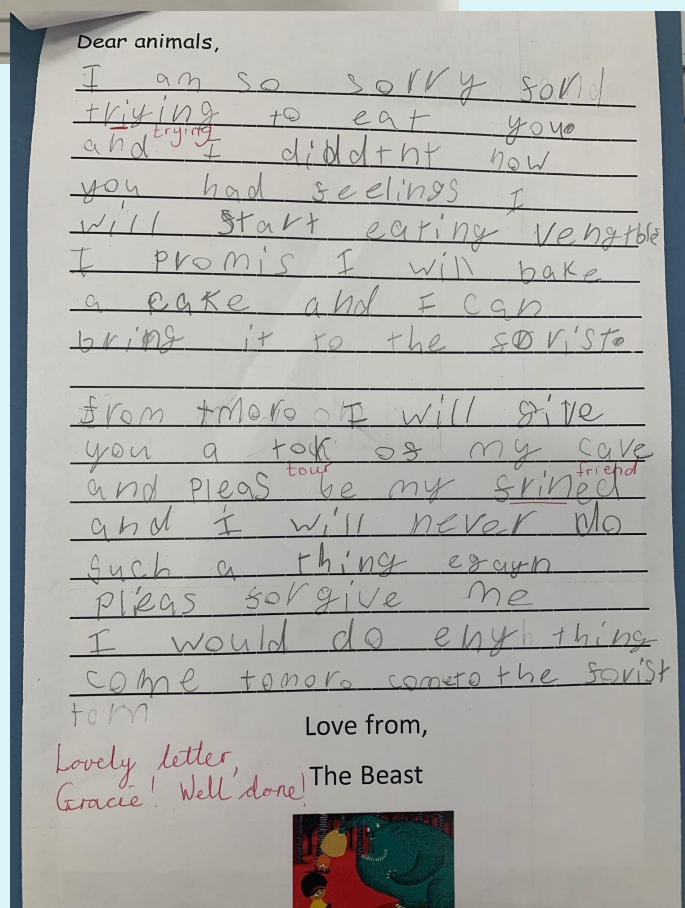
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In year 2 Ms. Sheppard and Ms. Naidoo have shared the work of the following two children. Well done to you both!

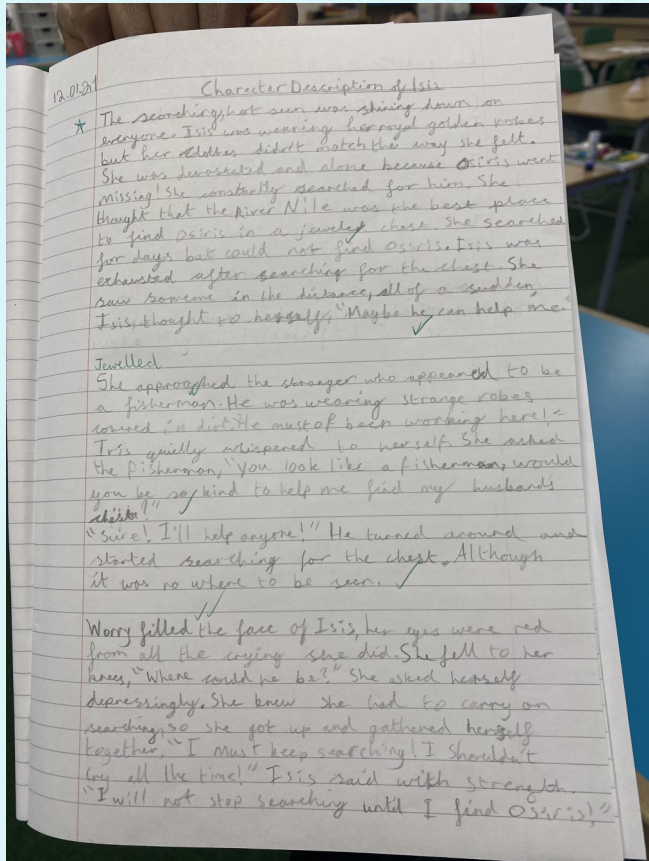
We are nominating Mahika in 2S for the value of responsibility this week. She has been on every zoom call and handed in every single assignment we have set to a very high standard (as have so many children in Year 2!). On the Zooms she is very responsible, always joining in and sharing her ideas. For RE she wrote this prayer, which we thought captured how so many of us are feeling at the moment. Well done Mahika on all your super work this week.



Gracie (2N) has worked very hard in all tasks this week and she always does her best. In Literacy this week we have been reading the story of Billy and the Beast. Gracie (pretending to be the beast) wrote a lovely letter of apology to the animals. Well done, Gracie!



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In Spruce Class (Year 4), we have been learning about Ancient Egyptians. Israh displayed a fabulous piece of English, writing a detailed character description of Isis. With this piece, the physical appearance and personality was well expressed.

Emile, also in year 4, who only recently joined St Luke's, has shown great responsibility in creating a character description of Isis. Alongside this he has attended all Zoom calls and completed all tasks on Teams. Well done Emile!




Isis had long hair and brown eyes. She was so upset because Seth killed her husband, she wanted to punch him, wanted to throw him into the Nile to drown like Osiris but she knew she couldn't. "I have to find him" she muttered. It was dry and hot; she knew she could not stay out long. "I will carry on searching tomorrow" she said on the fifth day.

The next day she went to a village and begged for help, but she failed again and again. She even dived in herself to find the chest. She hoped that it would stay afloat, but she knew it would not. When Isis came up, she sobbed and sobbed but never gave up.





Soon she found it on the seabed getting deeper and deeper. It was extremely heavy, but she still carried it up. She couldn't open it so she went to a local village and asked if they would help. Finally, they opened it.

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In year 5, the children have clearly been very keen on their work on the planets!

Planet	Picture	Size/ description	Temperature	Other notes
Mercury		2,439.7 km Mercury is the smallest planet in our solar system. Along with Venus, Earth, and Mars, Mercury is one of the rocky planets. It has a solid surface that is covered with craters. It has no atmosphere, and it doesn't have any moons.	800 degrees Fahrenheit	4.503 billion year
Venus		6,051.8 km Venus is the second planet from the Sun, and is Earth's closest neighbour in the solar system. Venus is the brightest object in the sky after the Sun and the Moon, and sometimes looks like a bright star in the morning or evening sky. The planet is a little smaller than Earth, and is similar to Earth inside.	about 900 degrees Fahrenheit	4.503 billion year
Earth		6,371km Our home planet Earth is a rocky, terrestrial planet. It has a solid and active surface with mountains, valleys, canyons, plains and so much more. Earth is special because it is an ocean planet. Water covers 70 percent of Earth's surface	Averaged as a whole, the global land and ocean surface temperature for March 2020 was 1.16°C	4.543 billion year
Mars		3,389.5km Mars is the fourth planet from the Sun and the second-smallest planet in the Solar System, being larger than only Mercury. In English, Mars carries the name of the Roman god of war and is often referred to as the "Red Planet".	Average 57 degree F. Average -81 degree F.	4.603 billion year

This is just a small sample of the amazing work that Sophia in year 5 has done as part of some work on the planets.

Planet	Picture	Size/Description	Temperature	Other Notes
Mercury		2439.7km	800 degrees Fahrenheit	Mercury is the smallest planet, and it's the closest to the sun.
Venus		6051.8km	880 degrees Fahrenheit	A day on Venus is longer than a year. Venus is hotter than Mercury despite being further away from the Sun.
Earth		6371km	2.09 Fahrenheit	Earth is not flat, but it's not perfectly round either. Earth has never been perfectly round.
Mars		3389.5km	-81 degrees Fahrenheit	Mars Would Kill An Unprotected Astronaut Quickly.

In science, year 5 have been exploring earth and space. Lauren has researched the planets in our solar system with meticulous attention to detail. She has really shown great research skills and even contributed to discussions about the recent debate of Pluto no longer being considered a planet! Keep up the great work Lauren!

Jupiter		69911km	234 degrees Fahrenheit	Jupiter has rings.
Saturn		58232km	-285 degrees F.	Saturn is the flattest planet.
Uranus		25362km	-353 degrees Fahrenheit	Uranus is the coldest planet in the Solar System.



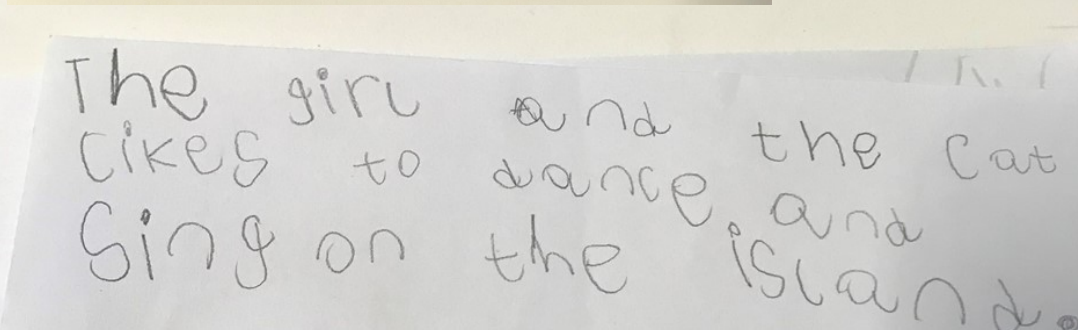
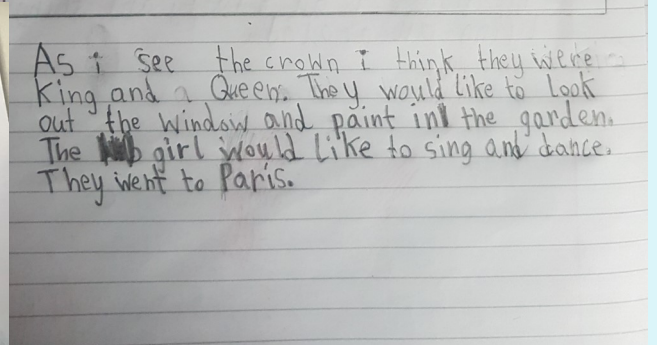
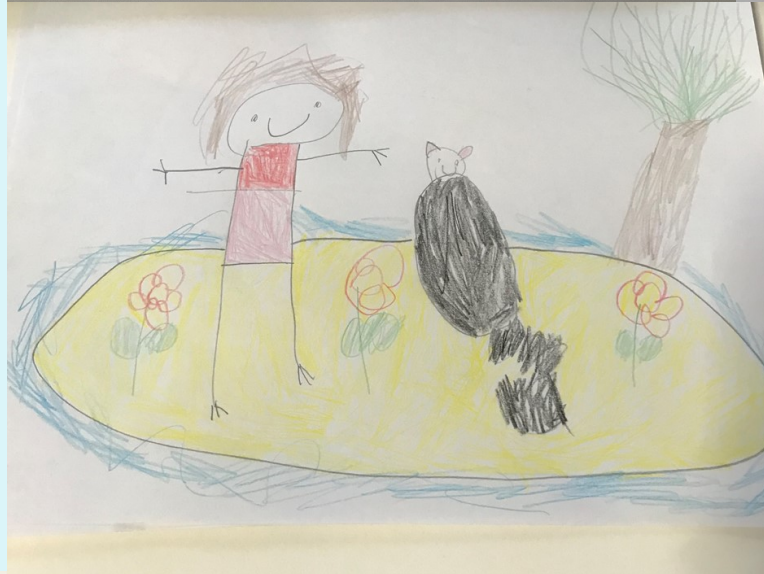
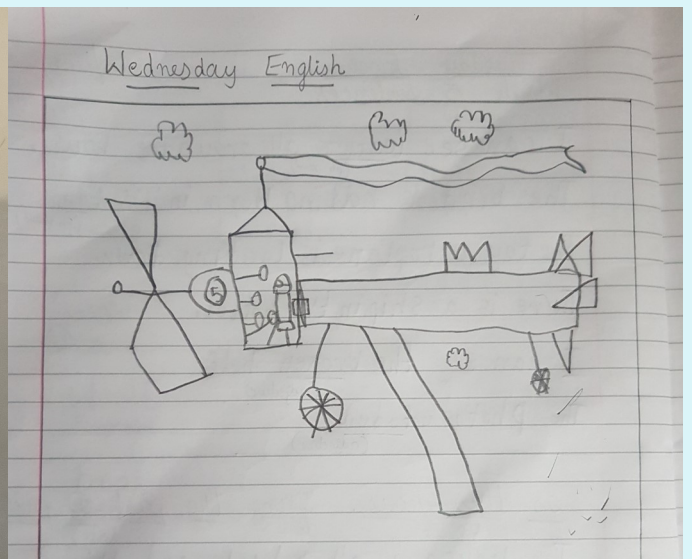
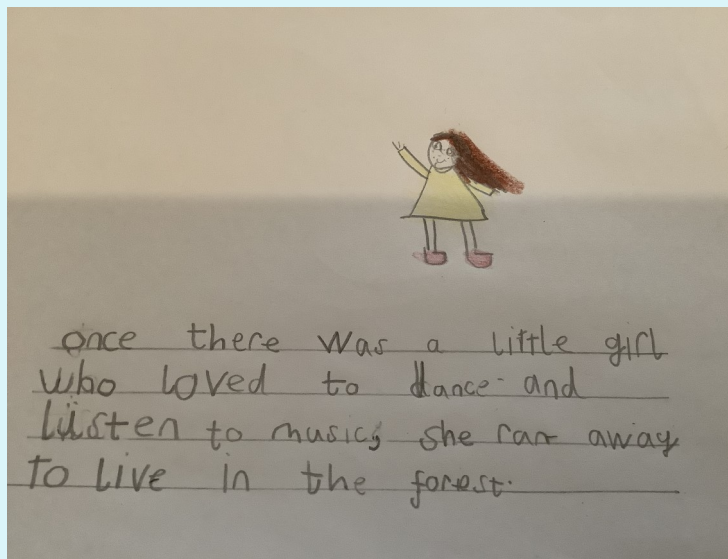


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In year 1 this week, we were reading the story 'The House that Once Was' by Julie Fogliano. We were using our imaginations to decide who lived in the house in the forest, what they liked and where they went when they left the house. Well done Year 1!

There are some really lovely pieces of work here by Amelia, Dev and Ella Rose.





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And finally, in Early Years Alicia wrote all her number up to 22, ordered them, cut out the leaves herself and made Jack's beanstalk with them! She stayed on task and focussed for a long period of time. Mum was really proud of her focus and creativity and so were all the staff!

