



Newsletter

26th February 2021

EXCELLENCE

Dear parents and carers,

Return to school

Following the government's announcement on Monday, we are really looking forward to welcoming all of the children back to school on March 8th. It is important, however, to acknowledge that the decision to bring all children back at the same time requires considerable planning to ensure that we can do this as safely as possible. Staff members have been meeting, and will continue to do so early next week to plan for this safe return. As such, we will be in touch later on next week to provide more detail. However, we would like to highlight that arrangements will include the following:

1. We will focus on the core provision in the three weeks leading up to Easter, meaning that there will be no after school care. We do, however, expect to provide breakfast club.
2. The staggered start and finish times that we had prior to this lockdown will remain in place.
3. There will be no clubs, swimming or music tuition until at least Easter.

We feel that it is imperative to move forward cautiously to ensure the controls we have in place enable the core provision to be delivered effectively and safely. As we grow in confidence that these measures are effective, we will seek to then develop the enrichment of our provision.

To enable the planning for the children's safe return, and to move the planning from remote learning to an in-class experience, staff members will need time to do so next week. Therefore, Monday will run as usual, as will the plans detailed later in this newsletter for World Book Day on Thursday. However, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday next week assignments will be set on Teams and Class Dojo but live Zoom sessions will not be happening, with the exception of Collective Worships, which will go ahead at the normal time. Staff availability during these times to respond to children's queries may be limited.

Value of the week

Our value this week is **excellence** and, once again, it was an absolute pleasure to lead collective worship this afternoon and to hear how these children have demonstrated this value, both at home and in school. Throughout this time of national lockdown, it is so heartening to hear of how our pupils continue to hold our values dear, and this shines through in how staff have shared so many wonderful examples of this on a weekly basis, and we know that this extends beyond those children nominated for their class. A big well done to all the pupils named below; we are extremely proud of you all!

Nursery	Helena Comerford
Reception Apple	James Seaward
Reception Peach	Tamkia Davies
Beech	Ella Tyler and Paul Lashmar
Maple	Mariea Hussein and Reuben Weekes
Birch	Ayden Khan
Ash	Torsten Kruger and John Oliveira-Comerford
Lemon	Linda Viola
Oak	Elsie Lakey
Aspen	Tanisha Anjum
Spruce	Israh Hussain
Palm	Anika Sinha
Cherry	Sophia Wu
Willow	Christopher Sarpong and Ethan Sun
Cypress	Maria Luoti-Hughes



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World Book Day

Next Thursday 4th March is World Book Day. We will be inviting the children to dress up as a favourite book character again on Friday 12th March once we are all back in school together, but here are the details of how we are going to celebrate our love of reading remotely next Thursday!

If you would like to, do still please dress up whether you are at home or coming into school! Classes will share their costumes on their morning Zooms, as well as other reading based activities. Your teachers will give you more information on Teams.

In the afternoon, you won't have your usual class Zoom. Instead, a timetable will be shared with you next week of Zoom links to different teachers reading stories throughout the afternoon live. Staff will use the time slots of their regular Zooms, so there won't be any clashes. You can attend as many of these story time sessions as you like, we just remind you to follow the usual rules of your class Zooms.

At 3pm there will be a whole school assembly. In this assembly we will be sharing pictures of staff reading in unusual places, but we would love to share pictures of the children too! Please email any pictures of pupils reading in an unusual place that you are happy to be shared in the assembly to amelia.sheppard@st-lukes.towerhamlets.sch.uk. The Zoom link for the assembly will be shared with you next week.

This year the £1 book tokens will be emailed out to you. You can find information about how to spend the token, once book shops open, here <https://www.worldbookday.com/terms-conditions/>

Petition

You may be aware of a petition that parents have been sharing and signing, asking the Department for Education to fully refund schools for additional costs that they have incurred in ensuring that they follow public health measures to keep them as safe as possible. You will probably be aware that school budgets were already extremely tight, and facing cuts, before the Covid crisis, so the impact of this is significant. You will find the petition by following the link below:

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/555718>

Safeguarding

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Rachel Harvey, has asked me to include a short note to you all about support available with respect to domestic abuse, which has sadly seen an increase since the start of the pandemic last year.

With the recent pandemic and lockdowns, incidents of domestic abuse have sadly become increasingly common across the UK.

With the safety and welfare of all our families in mind, we are sharing with you government domestic abuse guidance in Bengali, Somali, Mandarin and other languages.

These links explain how to recognise and report domestic abuse and where support can be accessed for victims and perpetrators.

If you have any concerns about the situation of yourself or others, please do not hesitate to read and follow the advice provided.

Keep well and take good care of yourselves.

Rachel Harvey

Links to the guidance:

English here:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/domestic-abuse-how-to-get-help?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=23104aa6-6d63-445c-af9b-1d10f9e7d561&utm_content=daily#coronavirus-covid-19-and-domestic-abuse



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Bengali: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/895815/Bengali_translation.pdf

Mandarin: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/895810/Mandarin_translation.pdf

Somali: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/895833/Somali_translation.pdf

Other languages are available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-get-help-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak-translations>

THEWS Workshop - Building Confidence and Managing Anxiety in your Child

On Tuesday 2nd March the Tower Hamlets Education Wellbeing Service (THEWS) will be hosting a workshop for St. Luke's parents. During the last year we will have all been feeling anxious and worried at times, children may have been feeling this way too. The workshop will help you learn about different types of anxiety and some tips about how you could help your child.

Please e-mail Harriet Pickering, SENCO (harriet.pickering@st-lukes.towerhamlets.sch.uk) to register. You will receive a zoom link on the morning of the workshop. Please also see the attached leaflet for more details.

Free mental health sessions for parents

Tower Hamlets Council are continuing to deliver mental health and wellbeing sessions for parents and school staff as part of our Wellbeing for Education programme. The programme aims to support mental wellbeing and resilience and aid mental health recovery for school staff, pupils, parents and carers', in light of the impact of Covid-19 and lockdown. The Local Authority have pulled together local experts to deliver training to school staff and Further Education (FE) providers, preventing as many people as possible from developing mental health difficulties and ensuring those with pre-existing or emerging difficulties access the right support. To book a place on any of the sessions, please email sultanax.begum@towerhamlets.gov.uk with the name of the session(s) you would like to attend, your name, role, organisation (if applicable) and contact details. Please note that places are limited and will be booked on a first come first served basis.

For parents and school staff

Supporting children who are anxious to return to school

Date: Wednesday 10th March

Time: 2 - 3pm

Led by: Julie Burns (Senior Educational Psychologist), Dr Lauren Coates (Educational Psychologist) and Guy Tamlyn (Trainee Educational Psychologist)

A session for parents and school staff who support children who are expressing worries about returning to school post-lockdown.

For parents only

Supporting home learning during lockdown and beyond: Secondary

Date: Monday 1st March

Time: 11am - 12pm

Led by: Dr Michael Palmer, Dr Patrick Sullivan (Educational Psychologists) and Guy Tamlyn (Trainee Educational Psychologist)



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Let's play! The importance of play across the age range

Date: Wednesday 3rd March

Time: 2 – 3pm

Led by: Dr Lauren Coates (Educational Psychologist) and Penelope Edwards (Trainee Educational Psychologist)

Play! What is it good for?! Well, lots of things actually! Parents, join us for a short webinar followed by a Q&A. We will explore ways to bring playfulness back into your life during lockdown, and explore why it's so important.

Supporting home learning during Covid and beyond: Primary

Date: Monday 8th March

Time: 2pm - 3pm

Led by: Dr Patrick Sullivan, Dr Michael Palmer (Educational Psychologists) and Jack Hammond (Trainee Educational Psychologist)

A short webinar for parents of primary aged children, followed by a Q&A session. We will explore the current challenges of home learning, what children are gaining, what they are missing, and share some practical strategies for how to support children at home.

Families Matter e-bulletin

Families Matter is a service run by Tower Hamlets, and they ask schools to share their services with parents.

In these uncertain times we understand the pressures parents, carers and families are under and provide a wide range of services and support for all parents and carers in Tower Hamlets.

We offer early help, targeted services and family support in partnership with schools and community venues and most recently due to the Coronavirus our services are available online through webinars, virtual meetings and forums.

Here you'll find regular updates, information, advice, and opportunities for you to join one of our virtual networks, support groups or attend a virtual parenting session to meet other parents and carers, share your experiences and learn from each other.

You can find all the information needed on the link below:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKTOWERHAMLETS/bulletins/2c3cc39>

Chronologies and spelling lists

For children in years 1 to 6, the half termly chronologies and spelling lists have been published over the course of this week. They will be emailed out to parents today, and will soon also be available for you to view on our website. Please do take the time to look at these documents as they provide detailed information on what your child will be learning over the course of this half term, as well as the weekly spellings that they will be tested on.

Dates

You may recall that we initially had Monday 12th April as an INSET day in our school calendar. This is just a reminder that this was changed to **Thursday 6th May 2021** at the beginning of the academic year, because it was confirmed that local elections were to take place, and we are used as a polling station. I also hope to be able to share the term dates for next academic year with you in the next two weeks.

Wishing you all an enjoyable and restful weekend.

With best wishes,

Cristina King, Head of School

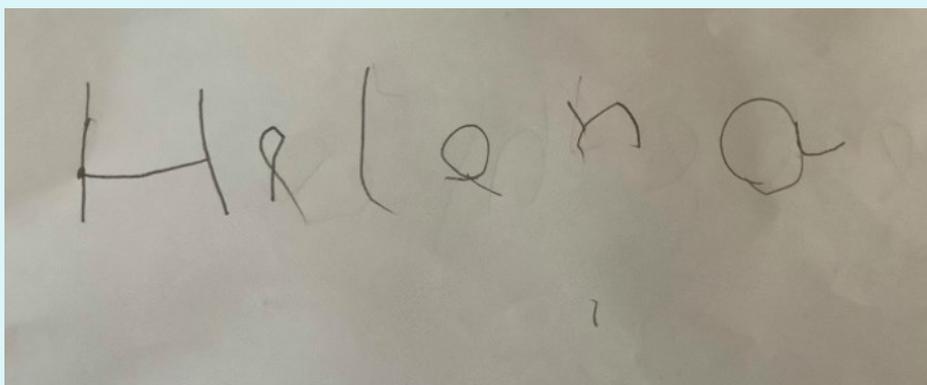


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In Nursery, Helena is our star of the week for her excellent home learning. Helena used objects from around the home to practise her size ordering, which was a brilliant idea to make her learning feel more real, and her name writing is getting better and better. We are so proud of Helena's creative and determined approach to home learning and the progress made in her name writing, it is truly excellent Helena, well done!



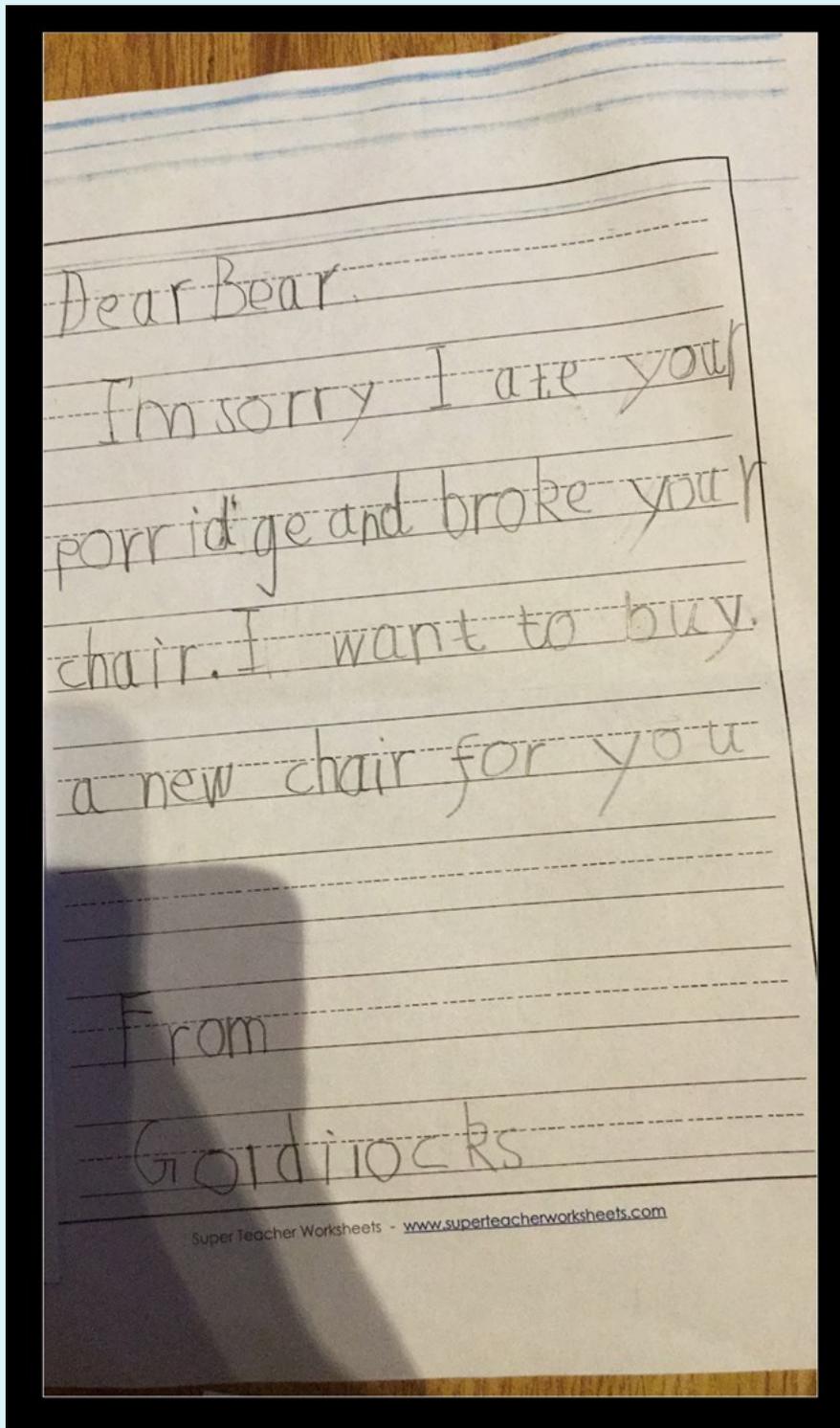


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Reception were most impressed with Mingyi, who wrote a great letter from Goldilocks to the three bears!





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Children in years 1, 2 and 4 produced some wonderful art and craft work to celebrate Chinese New Year. Our art subject leader, Sabena, was so impressed by what children produce. Well done to you all!





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In Year 2 this week we have been reading Captain Flinn and the Pirate Dinosaurs! Here are some examples of the fantastic job applications we wrote to become a pirate captain!

I am applying for the job of a pirate that Captain Stubble mentioned before. My name is Flora. I would be the best pirate you have ever met! I am fearless that I am not scared of anything. I am brave that I could fight in any battle! I am as strong as a elephant! I am good at fighting for treasure and look out for ships that we can rob also look out for precious treasure!!

Hope you will consider my application!

Ashely 2S

English 24.2.21

First I will tell you what makes me a good pirate captain. I am fearless and very strong, but I am incredible with words. I don't ever get sea sick and I like being on ships.

How how to give our ship orders or the captain can't out run us.

AND I LOVE TREASURE!

Oscar 2N

Do you know why I am the perfect person for being a pirate captain? I'll tell you! First of all I am very brave, strong and fearless. Nothing would ever scare me. Spiders? No way! sharks? Oh no! Fear? Not a word! I am the bravest person you can ever meet. I don't care if I get into a battle. Whatever happens, I keep brave.

Vihaan 2S

I am applying for the job of a pirate captain because I am brave, fearless, powerful, terrifying. That's why I'll be best at this job. I am also cunning, fast, strong, fearless and I have a compass. I know how to use a gun and I never get sea sick.

I LOVE treasure!!! And battles are always won by me. I think I will be a very good pirate.

Niko 2S



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I would like to apply for the job of a
captain. I am brave fearless and
I never get sea sick
I am not afraid of any thing
I am very good at telling people
to do. I can read treasure maps
I am the right person for this job
I am fear less

Khadija 2N

24.2.21 English - WALT: Job Application

I am applying to be a pirate captain.

I would be the best person for the job because
I can give orders, ~~and~~ I am daring, sneaky,
brave and fearless but when it comes to battle
I will prove I am terrifying with ^{super} sharp cutlass
cutlass.

What a passion I have for treasure! Now I
have this ~~new~~ sensitive parrot to help me find
treasure. His bark ~~is~~ can easily crack locks
too!

To make the ship ^{better} better, I've added jets,
~~unnecessary~~ removed unnecessary things and made the ~~is~~
scariest ever flag.

Now, do you think I'll be the best?

Binary:

1. With Flinn's newly made, advanced technology they
will track The Acorn maybe to find the ship
needs wings.
2. They are on a mission to find The Acorn but
where might it be? Flinn might even need more
technology. Who knows?

Lachlan 2S



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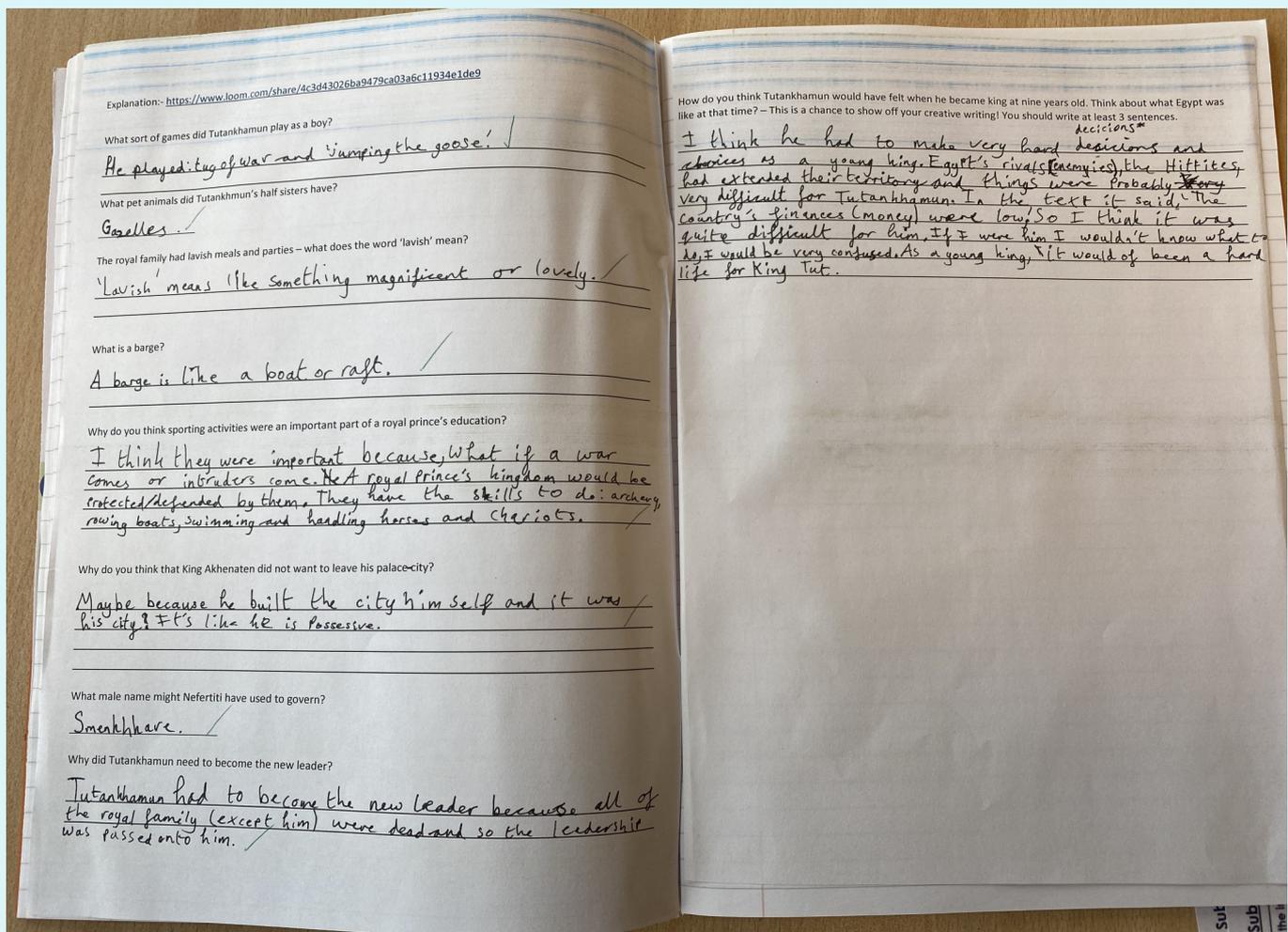
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In Year 3 we have been practising using prepositions to begin our sentences and using expanded noun phrases to help describe setting. Here is fantastic example from Calvin in Oak Class, who has been working extremely hard with support from home:

"In the distance, there was a menacing storm approaching. Deep in the dark and damp cave, some ugly and noisy trolls were feasting on freshly caught fish. Down below the cave, the choppy and angry sea was roaring and foaming. On the top of the craggy cliff, two mighty trolls were out in the storm and hunting for frightened birds. At the bottom of the cliff where the waves were bashing the sharp and dangerous rocks, there was an abandoned ship. Near by the damaged ship, sailors were trying to climb to safety." (Calvin, Oak Class).

In year 4 this week, Mr. Akinyemi has chosen Israh in Spruce class as she has shown excellence in describing what life could have been like for King Tutankhamen. Additionally, she showed empathy and explained her thinking clearly. Aside from this, Israh is know for her work ethic and consistency.





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Also in year 4, in Aspen Class, we have nominated Tanisha for excellence this week. She is really thinking about presentation and answering using full sentences - well done Tanisha!

1. Because he was very close to the family and he had married Negotah's wife nurse.
2. A nobleman.
3. When with men and prince Tutankhaten became king Tutankhaten.
4. Abandoned means when you something and never come back for it.
There was a abandoned puppy on the streets so I adopted it.
5. They used to give new names.
6. Because claudes means over cast of gloomy so Tutankhaten and A nobleman married chage with gloom.
7. Because he was the Tutankhaten's father so he would make a great king.



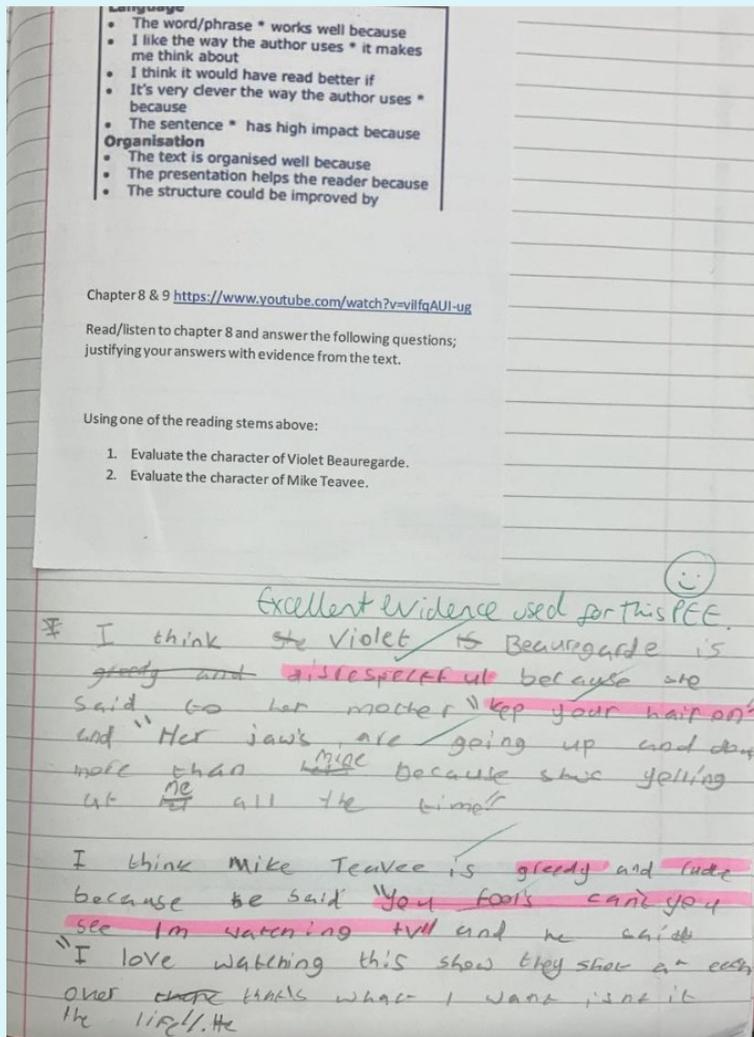
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In year 5, Ms. Budden is very proud of Abigail's work. The children had to come up with some interesting similes to describe various nouns, focusing on thinking outside the box and not using the obvious clichés. Ms. Budden thought Abi's similes were really creative, thoughtful and poetic.

- A) An old man is like a winter morning
- B) A bare tree is like a cold human
- C) A piano is a magical world of music
- D) An ocean is an endless world of blue
- E) The earth is like a huge car that goes round and round a roundabout
- F) Panic is like a house on fire
- G) The moon is a huge star



Also in year 5, in Destination Reader the pupils are reading Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. The children have been using their evaluation skills to analyse characters. Maddi Daly has really thought about the characters- Violet and Mike Teavee. Maddi has evaluated the text and selected quotes which represent their characters supported with an detailed explanation. We hope you enjoy reading Maddi's work as much as we did.



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In year 6, after reading a condensed version of our text 'The Wedding Ghost', we focused on summarising the text. Samiha Begum has written a thrilling and pacey blurb to entice the reader to open this book.

The Wedding Ghost Blurb

Once he had opened the map, desperation filled his heart. Hurriedly taken by strangers and onto a boat, all he could see were trees and bushes around him and he then spotted his destiny – the yellow stoned mansion.

He had come to this mansion to complete a mission and that was to awaken the magnificent Sleeping Beauty. Once the woman was woken, she would haunt and possess his life – filling it with eagerness and riskiness! What will he do? Does he awaken her? If he does, will he regret his decision? Read on to find out...

This mysterious text is written by Leon Garfield and the thorough and detailed pictures by Charles Keeping.

This is from Lina De Wachter:

The Wedding Ghost Blurb

Jack just **had** to. He **had** to follow the map and find where it lead to. Journeying across the raging waves on a barge, trekking through a forest full of branches and brambles, he finally arrived at a palace. It was here were Jack met Sleeping Beauty. Fast asleep, on her luxurious bed, the Princess did not even flicker her eyelids. As the role of a Prince, Jack was going to have to awaken her.

With breath-taking events in the text by Leon Garfield and beautifully detailed pictures by Charles keeping, this story will move you because of its magical storyline.



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And finally, this is from Nashwa Hossain:

The Wedding Ghost Blurb

The map had made Jack approach his new colourful dreamy life. It had led him to a steaming river with a ghostly sail, directing him through a forest of haunting shadows of branches dancing across the floor. To a decadent coil mansion. Thats when he saw her...

He had reached the palace sleeping beauty has been left in for years. He had to awaken her and once he had she would be his forever. Giving the affection of love to him.

With the text written by Leon Garfield and well-defined art by Charles keeping, this story has been a classic of romance.