



Newsletter 01.05.2020

Our value this week has been **Kindness**

The following children have been nominated by their teachers:

Y1: Gracie has shown lots of kindness in school. She always includes everyone in her games, looks out for all the other children and makes sure they are ok and shows kindness to the adults too by always trying her best with her work. Well done Gracie.

Mahika has shown kindness this week by taking the time to comment on her peers work on Teams when they have completed a task well. She also showed kindness during our first zoom chat as a class, listening to others as they shared their work whilst waiting patiently for her turn. Well done Mahika.

Y2: Elsie is such a kind person. She's demonstrated this on Teams by replying to messages in our Friendship Team politely and enthusiastically. She listened carefully and contributed confidently on our class call this week and showed kindness by being patient for her turn to speak. Well done Elsie.

Frankie has shown kindness this week, when a member of our Year 2 Team was feeling sad, he created a thoughtful card for them to let them know that he cared. He always replies to messages on Teams kindly and politely. Well done Frankie.

Y3: Aria is such a kind and thoughtful person. She always replies to our morning messages in a polite and positive manner. She shows great enthusiasm for any home learning task we set her.

Danny has shown and always does show kindness. He has helped out a few children online and is always happy to do this. He always puts a lot of effort into his online learning. Keep up the good work Danny

Y4: Zaki always demonstrates kindness to adults and his peers. His kindness is easily spotted during online learning. Zaki always remembers to greet everyone, every morning. When his peers receive positive feedback for their achievements, he often responds by giving encouragement. We are really proud of Zaki! Well done!

Rowan is always a kind person. On teams, she is one of the first people to say hello. She is always trying to help her peers, by giving them help and advice. She always responds respectfully and with manners, when she is given feedback on her work. She truly is a brilliant role model!

Amelia Rahma has really shown kindness by helping her peers navigate through Teams. She demonstrates patience and always goes above and beyond to help others with practical solutions. Amelia is always very polite and enthusiastic about her online learning, cheering her peers along too. Well done Amelia!

Dear Parents and Carers,

We continue to miss you all here at St. Luke's. More children have been attending the provision here than before Easter and it is lovely to see them and their parents each day. It is not the same as school as we know it though! Speculation in the press continues about the timeframe for schools to return. Certainly, we have no indication in schools yet. The LA told me that the DfE had said to them that we would get 3 weeks notice. I think we can be fairly confident that it will be a staged return once it starts, with a focus on trying to maintain social distancing measures as much as is practicable when working with young children. As soon as I know anything, you can be sure that I will share it with you immediately.

In view of schools potentially resuming this side of the summer holidays in some form, we have been undertaking a thorough and deep clean of the building, cleaning equipment used by the children and undertaking maintenance in key areas for example the swimming pool. Anna A and Bob continue to coordinate maintaining the grounds. Hopefully when schooling does resume, the site will be clean and smart to welcome you all back!

What are our children up to?

I shared with you last week, what my daughter Alice has been doing to support her community during this crisis and appealed to you to share what your children have been up to. Jodie Brown got back to me and shared that Georgie her son has become an on line chef! With his own You Tube videos he is demonstrating to people at home how to cook delicious recipes during lock down. People have told Jodie and Georgie that he is 'keeping them company during this very lonely time'. Jodie says that Georgie looks forward to making these videos and that it helps him to feel calm. He has certainly provided me with some useful meals to try at home! Please see the attached link to see a familiar face. He is a complete natural! Well done Georgie for supporting others.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7OuX39FatkcT78MT8BHJrw>

INSET day on 7th May and Bank holiday on 8th May

Please remember that in our school calendar since the start of the year have been these dates. For these dates, the teachers will not be leading the class teams. On the Thursday the teachers will be writing the children's annual school reports and engaging in on line learning. If you are stuck for something to do, please look out for the Healthy Lives updates that we share with you through social media. You can also refer to our school website or to previous newsletters for ideas that you have not explored yet. We would welcome book reviews from your children too, so if they have enjoyed a good read recently, ask them to summarise it in a paragraph and I can then publish that in the news letters for parents to share with their children too.

The site itself will also be closed on these two dates. All key workers have been consulted and there was only one child on each day who needed provision so alternative arrangements have been made as it is not viable or appropriate for our staff to work with one child.

If any parents of children who have been accessing the provision here because they are vulnerable are worried about the two days of closure, then please make contact with Rebecca a.s.a.p. to establish what we can do to help.

The site will be functioning again, as it is now, from Monday 11th May.

National Vouchers for families eligible for Free School Meals

You may have heard in the press last night about the challenges that this system is facing. Please understand that the difficulties are not the fault of St. Luke's School but of the system itself. All families eligible for Free School meals here at St. Luke's have vouchers ordered from **Edenred**. During the Easter period we brought Asda vouchers but since then we are with the national system. If you think you have not received the vouchers, please look in your junk folder for an email from **Edenred**. If you are then experiencing difficulties activating them, please email admin@st-lukes.towerhamlets.sch.uk so that we can advise you.

If you are struggling as a result of this crisis, maybe you have lost your employment or have ben placed on reduced income, please use the same email address, or get in touch with me, so that we can help. There are lots of sources for food that we can put you in touch with. We also have some funds left from the hardship fund that we could also use to support you. *This text for the newsletter continues overleaf.*

Help with Microsoft Teams

It has become apparent to us this week that there have been instances when parents feel that their children have submitted work to the teams system, yet the system has not informed the teachers that the work has been submitted, they cannot see it and then the child does not receive any feedback.

There have also been other occasions where teachers have seen the work submitted, they have given feedback, yet the parents and children have not been able to see/access it.

To support everyone in making the best use of the system that we have available to us, Ms. N. and Mr. Griffiths have made some videos to support everyone.

Here are some short video tutorials to show you how to use Teams, including how to 'turn in' assignments and how to view feedback from teachers (all available on the school website).

If you need help with any aspect of Teams, please contact homelearning@st-lukes.towerhamlets.sch.uk

Introduction to assignments (student view): <https://youtu.be/eK1ZBtfeeqI>

Working on assignments (student view): <https://youtu.be/dMMMy8ekbbGk>

How to upload children's work (student view): <https://youtu.be/tsMUd4lb8bQ>

How to view feedback (student view): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=39QXNH-9SCk>

How to respond to feedback (student view): <https://youtu.be/Mu3cFX68Wc8>

National Online Safety programme for Parents/Carers

The online world is posing an ever-increasing risk to children, and it is important that schools, parents and carers work together to take an active role in teaching children about online dangers. Learning how to act safely when using the internet is an incredibly important part of safeguarding our children.

We are therefore delighted to announce that St Luke's have shown our commitment to protecting our pupils online by working with the organisation **National Online Safety**. We have signed up to a 'school community package' so that all staff, governors and parents/carers can access the online resources, including various webinars, videos and reading materials.

There is a specific "**Online Safety for Parents and Carers**" course so if you are interested in online learning from home, you can create an account by following <http://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/st-luke-s-church-of-england-primary-school-2> , complete your details and select "I am a: Parent/Carer" as your account type.

We have also attached the user guide. Any questions, please email homelearning@st-lukes.towerhamlets.sch.uk

Live streaming lessons

Some parents have enquired if the school could provide live lessons. The school's approach to home learning is that we will not be providing live-streamed lessons because:

- Teaching unions have issued guidance for teachers not to live-stream lessons: The NEU has said, 'Teachers should not live-stream lessons from their homes, nor engage in any video-calling unless in exceptional circumstances, with the parent. Online lessons are not desirable for primary children as the teacher-pupil interaction is not easily replicated.'
- We are also concerned that having live lessons for 12 classes would not work where siblings in different classes share devices.

Our teachers have never had to work in this way before and therefore are learning strategies to employ when working in this way, on the job. Increasingly, they are experimenting with voice notes and the use of class meetings, within Teams or using Zoom. Whilst we understand the need to enable the children to make progress in their learning despite the circumstances, it does take time to develop confidence with new skills and ways of working.

Where you have positively encouraged the teachers this has really spurred them on. On behalf of the teachers, thank you for your words of encouragement.

To conclude, it is perhaps worthy of note that the Teaching Unions have also issued guidance stating that teachers should not mark children's work. I share this with you because, as you know, our teachers recognise the importance of valuing children's efforts, and do want to provide at least an acknowledgement of what children are doing, but please understand that the teachers here, whilst also dealing with this crisis like we all are on a personal level, are going above and beyond the guidance issued, in order to support children's learning.

It is perhaps worth pointing out that grievances shared in social media groups do have a habit of making their way back to the person being spoken about and can be hurtful. If you are concerned about any aspect of the on line learning provision, please use the home learning email to share those with senior staff, so that we can attend to your concerns appropriately.

Sending you all very best wishes for another week of lockdown.

Because it is a short week next week, the next newsletter will be on 15th May.

Take care and keep well, Rebecca Abrahams

We have been really impressed by the work that some children are doing on Teams. Here are some examples....

This is Aarian Rexha's introduction to his suspenseful writing. Aarian is in Year 6 with Ms. Sutherland

I leapt from my bedroom window onto the sodden grass below. It was freezing outside and I wished I had put on my goretex boots rather than my sneakers. I sneaked through the streets under the cover of darkness. I passed the pub where I caught a glimpse of some giddy fools singing and dancing. Afterwards I reached the tall iron fence. It was dark out and it was taking me a while to get used to the dark. I was on the edge of town right near the Graveyard of haunted souls. No one visits the place anymore, not after Thomas James- Parker got lost in there. Me and My best mate (Johnny) dared ourselves to go in there. We were meant to meet up here at 7pm, but he was not here. I rang him up but he didn't pick up. I guessed he must have chickened out. I was not going to wait for that grump to show up, no - I was going in alone...

In Year 1 they have been creating repeated patterns inspired by the Jaipur elephant festival.

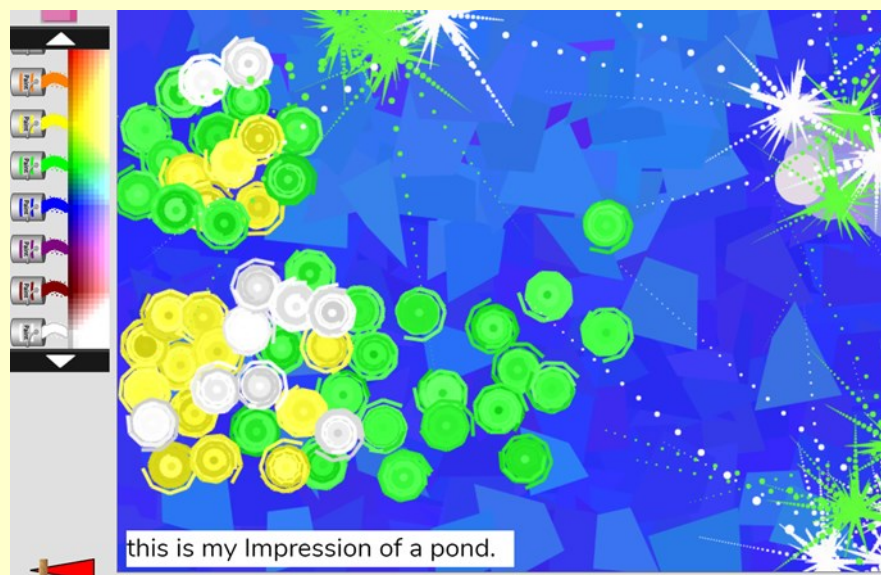
This is Noa's beautiful work:



Year 2 pupils have been exploring digital art on PurpleMash and began work in the style of 'impressionism'. This is Atulit's work. He said, 'I have made a starry night'!



And this is Betsy's work, again from Year 2.



In Year 3 they have been sketching plants. This is Judah's work



Aria in Year 3 has also submitted a fabulous piece of writing to the Tower Hamlets Writing Competition. Good luck Aria!

The Island

Once upon time, in a beautiful, grand three story house that was near the river and had two balconies one on the second floor and one on the third floor, each window had flowers hanging out of it, and each balcony was filled with flowers, there were two pairs of twins that were siblings. The oldest twins, Albert and Clare had sky blue eyes and dark brown hair that grew perfectly straight. On the other hand, Penelope and Michael had hazel eyes that always had a sparkle in them and light brown hair along with freckles. Penelope's hair flowed down her back curving now and then.

Unfortunately, one of them had got lost while swimming and his name was Albert. The family was devastated.

One day, Penelope and Michael (the other pair of twins), went canoeing with their big sister Clare (Albert's twin). They had so much fun that they lost track of time and it grew dark. For some reason, the river's current always had got faster at night. In the morning, they found themselves washed up on the shore and their canoe was broken.

Continued on the next page.

They noticed that they had been shipwrecked but also they noticed the beautiful dandelions glowing like the sun and the other flowers that were pink, blue and purple. There were some vines hanging from trees of all different kinds. Some palm trees had coconuts some didn't.

Right away, they set to work on building a new boat. Clare used the emergency knives to cut down the palm trees.

Meanwhile, Penelope was gathering coconuts and fishing for fish. And Michael was gluing the wood together. For lunch, they ate Penelope's biggest Cod and a few coconuts. After lunch, they went for a short walk, while they were walking around the forest and admiring the wild flowers, suddenly they bumped into a boy which would be about Albert's age, if Albert was still alive. But his clothes were torn and he had scars all over his face.

He told them his name was Albert and had got lost while swimming. Almost at once, they realized that they were his brother and sisters so they explained the whole story to him. They were filled with happiness to once again be reunited!!!

Once he understood they were his long lost siblings, he took them to the cave where he had been staying and showed them a treasure map that he had found. They soon located the place and started digging with their tools.

After what seemed like hours, they finally reached the top of the treasure chest. Clare stabbed a knife into the top of the treasure chest. They screamed at what they saw... IT WAS A DEAD BODY!!! They ran away from it as fast as their legs could carry them.

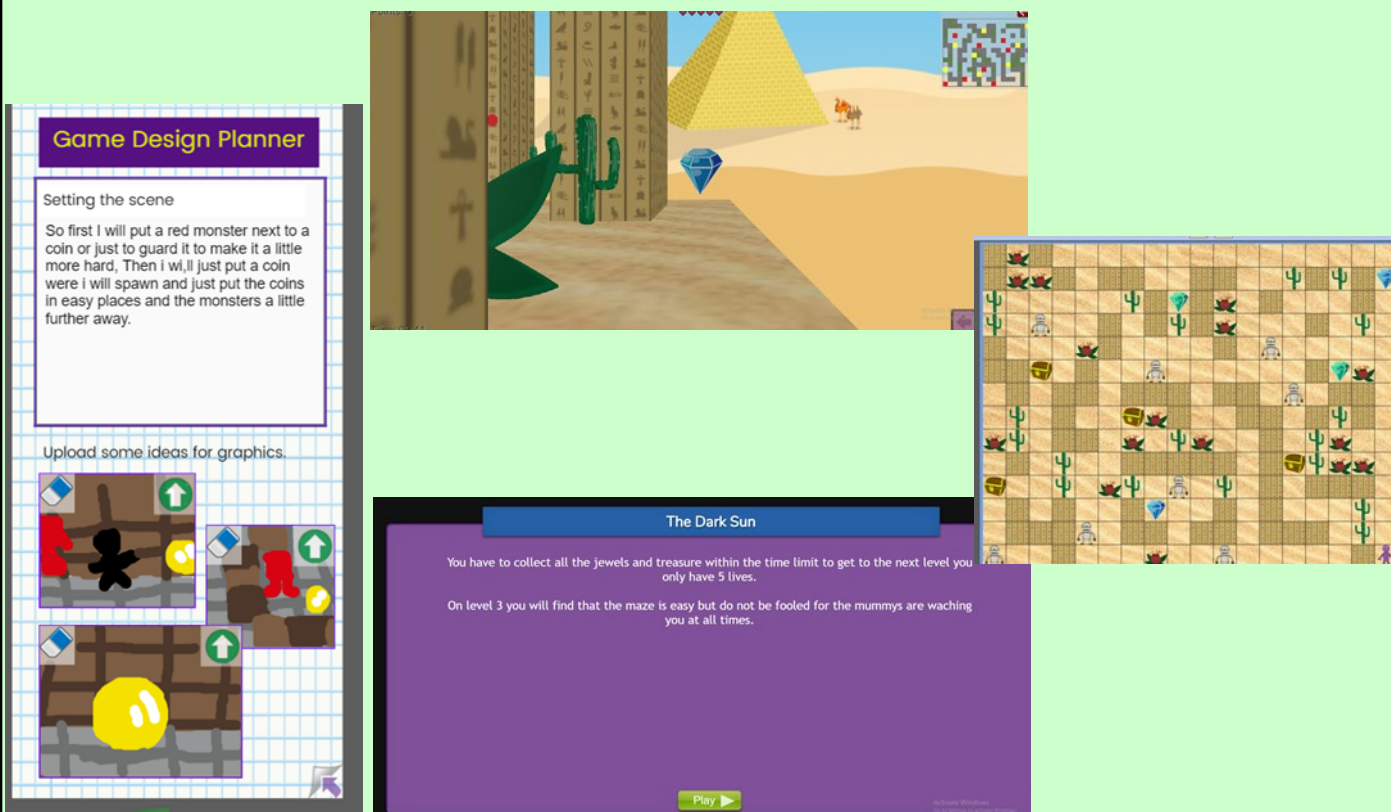
They collected a supply of food and water. They expected it would last enough, and even if it didn't they could use their fishing rod and net to catch fish.

After a long walk, they found their home-made boat and jumped into it. They sailed for many days and nights, until finally one day they found their house at the bank of the river. They were so overjoyed they jumped into the river, they didn't even mind getting wet. They opened the door and gave their parents a big hug.

The children's parents were both surprised and relieved to see Albert and the others alive.

The children took turns explaining different parts of their amazing adventure. After they had finished their story, the father made for the family some pizza because it was one of their favourites. This was an evening the whole family would remember for the rest of their lives. They all sat down eating their pizza as the children wondered what their next adventure would be...

Year 4 pupils have been planning and creating their own maze games:



Here follows guidance and advice for parents:

Holiday childcare – May scheme offer

The holiday childcare team will be providing childcare for children 3 – 13 years at two sites during May half term.

Bookings are now open.

St Michael Primary School:	St Mathias Primary School:
Monday 25 – Friday 29 May Open 8am and 6pm (breakfast available between 8am and 8.45am). Each child will need to bring their own packed lunch.	Tuesday 26 – Friday 29 May Open 9am – 5 pm Each child will need to bring their own packed lunch.
Cost: £1 booking per a day per a child. <i>No refunds available under any circumstances.</i>	Cost: £1 booking per a day per a child. <i>No refunds available under any circumstances.</i>
<i>Available for key worker families only.</i> Confirmation of key worker status will need to be e-mailed to holiday.childcare@towerhamlets.gov.uk prior to your booking being confirmed.	<i>Available for short breaks children and vulnerable families referred a school or social worker.</i> Completed referral form from school or social worker will need to be e-mailed to holiday.childcare@towerhamlets.gov.uk prior to booking being confirmed.
Please note any children who require 1:1 support will need to be referred through the short breaks service. Contact details: Scott Jackson (Short Breaks Co-ordinator) 0207 364 1450	

All bookings must be made in advance and online so we have all the necessary information to keep your child safe whilst in our care and process the large volume of bookings we will receive.

Full details on how to complete this are in the how to apply section on our web-site www.towerhamletsholidaychildcare.gov.uk/hcs

Between our schools—it is likely that there will be provision on the Island too and I will share this with you in due course.

Healthy Start vouchers and vitamins

Parents may be eligible for healthy start vouchers and vitamins. With Healthy Start, parents get free vouchers every week to spend on milk, plain fresh and frozen fruit and vegetables, and infant formula milk. Families can also get free vitamins.

If a mother is pregnant or the family has children under the age of four, they could qualify if they are on benefits, or if they're pregnant and under 18. Please go to: <https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/>

‘Healthy Start helps you give your family the very best start in life. If you are pregnant or have a child under four years old, you could get Healthy Start vouchers to help buy some basic foods. This important means-tested scheme provides vouchers to spend with local retailers. Pregnant women and children over one and under four years old can get one £3.10 voucher per week. Children under one year old can get two £3.10 vouchers (£6.20) per week’

Please see attached advice on **childcare vouchers** which has been kindly produced by Howard Platt, LB Newham.

Update from Good Thinking - London's digital mental well-being support service

Good Thinking is London's digital mental wellbeing service, delivered in partnership with London's NHS, the Mayor of London, Public Health England, London Councils and Thrive LDN.

Good Thinking is free for Londoners to access and provides support to those who feel anxious, sleep deprived, stressed or sad.

The platform has recently been updated with specific resources to support the mental health and wellbeing of Londoners in response to coronavirus which can be found here. This includes:

Guides to manage mental health

Advice guides aimed at healthcare workers, parents and carers and children and young people

Personal stories (blogs and podcasts) – currently five blogs and 12 podcasts with a variety of people being interviewed

Useful links

Further content is in development and will be added so it is worth revisiting the Good Thinking website.

Please consider following Good Thinking on social media:

Twitter - @GoodThinkingUK

LinkedIn - @Good Thinking

Instagram – goodthinkinguk

Activities for the children:

Here follows an email that I received from Anna Fiorentini—the organisation who run a Theatre and stage School on our site each week:

We hope you, your team and students are staying safe. As you know, the award winning Anna Fiorentini Theatre & Film School has been part of the local community for the past 19 years and now is no different. To ensure the schools survival we have come up with a couple of innovative ways to continue to deliver our workshops, and at the same time support the physical and emotional well-being of our young people during this difficult time. We have moved online to offer students a creative outlet whilst at home, offering classes in singing, acting, dance and much more.

Now more than ever children will be needing support with their confidence, self-esteem, communication skills and self-expression. Therefore we have developed an on-line programme to enhance these very skills.

We are also offering this term completely free of charge to all children of NHS workers as a way of bringing some smiles at what must be a very scary time for them. Please can we ask that you spread this news to the families you work with. Please find two posters attached, (one for 7 - 18 year olds and the other for 4 - 6 year olds), and more details here: <https://bit.ly/2zyALQJ>. As one of our partnership schools, we really hope you'll be able to continue to support us at this time and of course, we hope to continue to support your students.

Please note we also have a charitable arm, the Fiorentini Foundation (registered charity no.1140414), which can support families that may struggle with fees.

For schools themselves there are bespoke performing arts workshops on offer that will be ideal for children of key workers that are currently attending school and following a curriculum in school. For more information please check our website via <https://bit.ly/2VNcDmI>

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or if you would like to discuss anything further. You can e-mail hello@annafiorentini.com or call us on 0207 682 1403.

Stay safe, and thank you for all keeping the Schools and our young people going during this uncertain time.

Further information can be found in the attachments sent out with this newsletter.

Half Moon Theatre Live

We have some of our shows online for free that you may want to highlight for your families to watch together, or perhaps use with the children who are at school right now. The text below could be sent in a newsletter if that would be useful:

Half Moon Theatre Live: A selection of recent much-loved productions for young people are available online for free. Shows available for primary-aged children include our co-productions with Tangled Feet: Butterflies (for ages 3-8) and Need a Little Help (for ages 2-7). A new show is added every Wednesday. Find out more here: <https://www.halfmoon.org.uk/live/>

Reading resources provided by TutorMate:

The school has been working in partnership with the charity TutorMate, to provide online reading support for children. They are providing two reading services during the lockdown which may be of interest:

1) The [TutorMate Story Time](#) service enables families to receive a story recorded for their child and is open to all children as well as those on the TutorMate programme in Year 1.

2) [TutorMateGO](#) is a free catalogue of levelled online books to support reading fluency

An explanatory video of TutorMate can be found [here](#) and click [here](#) to see a BBC News story about their work.

Carbon Foot print

I received another email from Wendy and this is what she wanted me to share with you:

We have had a really positive response to our CarbonFootprint Hero on line Eco resources.

Just to let you know that **we have been adding to the content throughout the week** so there are always some fresh new things to do entirely at home and whilst observing social distancing and other COVID-19 related requirements.

The content remains focused for 7-13 year olds, though we have had some suggestions to add some specific materials for younger children. **If there are any things that you would like to see – please do let us know** – as a scientist myself I am keen that the content supports STEM as much as possible.

The **CarbonFootprint Hero** resources are available on

<https://www.carbonfootprint.com/carbonfootprinthero.html>

We hope you continue to find these resources useful and please do let me know additional content you would like to see there.

Singing can be such an uplifting experience!

And then, finally, to finish off this week, I had an email from an old friend of St. Luke's Jonathan Pease.

You may remember that when we celebrated the 150th birthday of our school, Jonathan wrote an opera with us that the children performed as part of the celebrations.

Jonathan wrote:

'I do a bit of work with an organisation called Poplar Union. They asked me a couple of weeks ago whether I had anything up my sleeve for an online musical project for children, for the age of lockdown. The musical I wrote for St. Luke's sprang to mind, with its suddenly relevant themes of isolation and escape.

I have subsequently worked on the opera we wrote together for St. Luke's and we are launching an online course based on the piece, hopefully next week, aimed at 7-10-year-olds.'

Anyway...

The online programme is here: <https://poplarunion.com/shipwreck-an-online-musical-for-kids/>

And there is more information attached should your children be interested.