



## Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is Forgiveness

[www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk](http://www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk) 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021

We are so delighted to be welcoming the children back to school on Monday! It really will be wonderful to see all their smiling faces again and for the children to be able to enjoy learning and playing with their friends. The classrooms have been far too quiet over recent weeks – they really do need to be filled with the children's chatter and laughter once again. Yesterday, all parents and carers received information about all the arrangements for the safe reopening – please make sure that you have read this carefully.

As the period of remote learning comes to an end, we would like to thank you all for doing such a brilliant job in supporting your child/children whilst learning at home. We know that this will have presented many challenges as families juggle the demands of working from home, home schooling and everything else that life demands of us. The hard work has certainly been worth it and will have helped to ensure that your child has continued to make progress whilst not in school. We were delighted to receive extremely positive feedback about our remote education offer from our Herts Improvement Partner recently. She looked at some of the recorded lessons, the outcomes achieved by children and the feedback from teachers – she was extremely impressed that our consistently high standards of teaching and learning were being maintained throughout the period of remote learning. She noted how enthusiastic the children are about their learning and that parental feedback was exceptionally positive. We really cannot thank you enough for your support; it is by working together that we can help the children achieve their very best.

World Book Day this week has provided an exciting focus for our final week of learning at home. Thank you to all the staff who volunteered to share stories and poems with the children – this can be quite a daunting task, especially when you know that your performance is being shared with a wider audience including many adults! The feedback from the children made it all worthwhile; it is fantastic that some of them have been inspired to read some of the books themselves. There really is nothing more important than establishing a regular reading habit whilst young. Reading exercises our brains and strengthens connections; it improves concentration; improves vocabulary and language skills; helps children to develop empathy and teaches children about the world in which we live. It is also fun, relaxing and a great way to spend time together. We hope this week will have had a positive impact on your child's love of books and their desire to read.

Have a great weekend and we look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Monday.

Please take care, follow the government guidance and remember:

**STAY HOME. PROTECT THE NHS. SAFE LIVES.**

Should you need to contact us, for whatever reason, please use the temporary email address:

**[closed@astonmarys.herts.sch.uk](mailto:closed@astonmarys.herts.sch.uk)**

# Route out of Lockdown



## Lateral Flow Testing

Parents of primary school aged children can now do lateral flow tests. Please click on the link below to the government website below. Test kits can be collected locally (closest is Primett Road car park in Stevenage).

[Rapid lateral flow testing for households and bubbles of school pupils and staff](#)

**8<sup>th</sup> March:** When the children return to school, restrictions are not lifting. The only change will be that schools reopen for face-to-face learning for all children. We must continue to stay home. You may only exercise outdoors with one other person from a different household. No mixing in or outdoors. FAMILIES MUST NOT MIX - IN OR OUTDOORS!

**29<sup>th</sup> March:** Rule of Six is planned to return - where two households can meet up outside only.

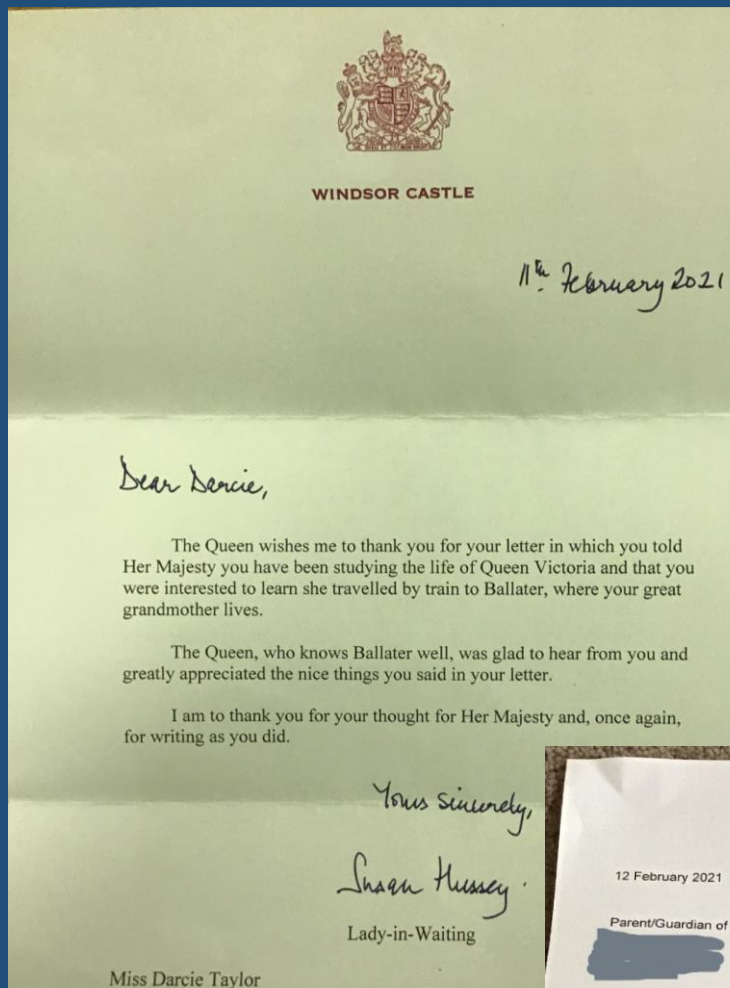
## [Message from the Stevenage Borough Council Facebook page](#)

We've made the decision to keep our play areas closed, and will review this decision weekly from now - taking into account the case rate and trend analysis - and will open them as soon as possible.

Unfortunately, while cases have continued to fall, Stevenage still has the highest coronavirus rate in the county. The 0-11 years old age group rate for Stevenage is more than twice the rate of Hertfordshire as a whole, and the 12-16 years old age rate is almost double the county rate. Therefore, we do not feel it is safe to reopen play areas at this current time. By acting responsibly now, we can play our part in helping to come out of lockdown.

Please DO NOT use play areas – they are still closed, there are signs up and padlocks on the gates. It's not fair to other families who are doing the right thing having to explain to their children why some people are still using them.

Government advice is still to stay local, so please do not travel to use play areas in other towns. Our parks and open spaces remain open for your enjoyment, and thank you for your understanding and patience.



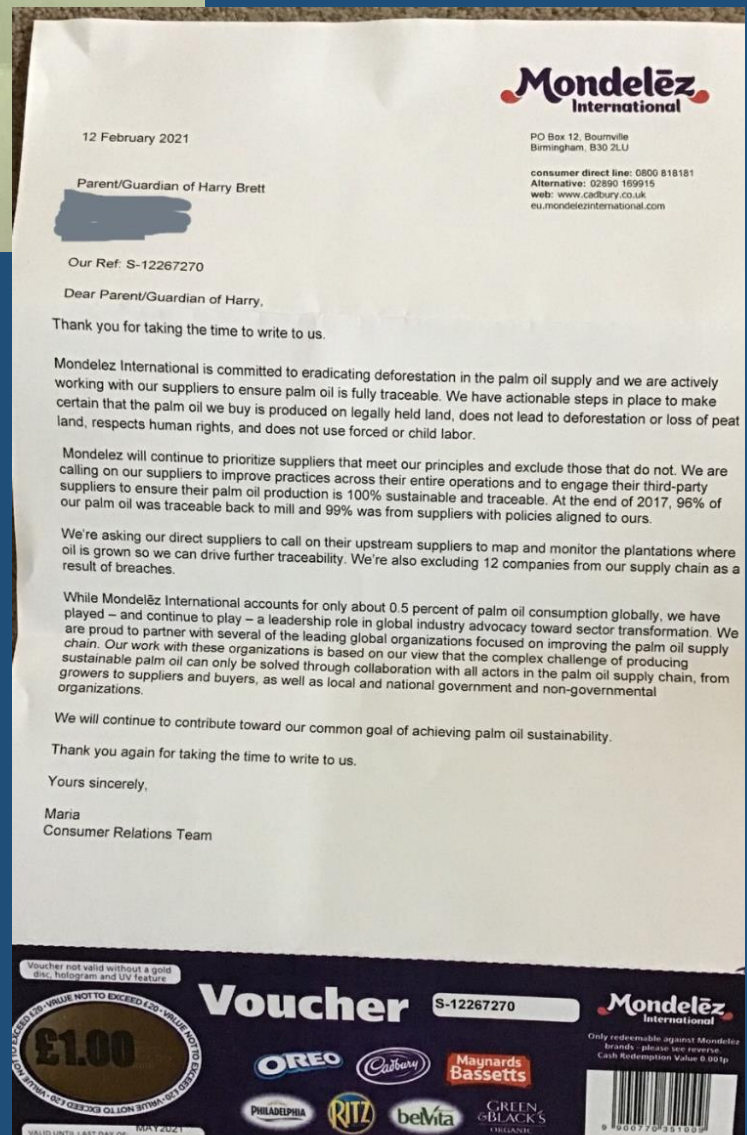
### Writing for a purpose

It is fantastic when children apply their writing skills to write for a purpose. Two of our Key Stage One children have been busy writing letters!

In History, Peartree class have been learning about Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth I.

Darcie, in Year One, was inspired by her learning to write to the Queen. She was delighted to receive a reply. We are very proud of you Darcie!

Orchard class have been focussing on Rainforests in Geography. Their learning in English was linked to their geographical studies when they explored the book 'There's a Rang-tan in my Bedroom'. As a result, Harry B (Year Two) was inspired to write a fantastic letter to Cadbury's expressing his concerns about the use of palm oil in their chocolate. We were delighted that he received a reply as well as a voucher. Well done Harry.





## Happy Bags Collection



Just a reminder that the next Happy Bag collection on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March.

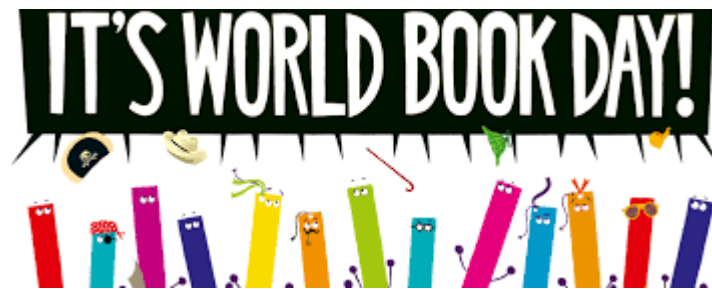
Please leave your bags of clothing under the bike shelter by 9am the morning of Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March. Please make sure the clothing is secure in plastic bags as Happy bags will not take any wet clothes.

## Red Nose Day – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March



Red Nose Day is back on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March and this year it's never felt more important to have some fun and raise money to support people living incredibly tough lives.

Further details of what will be happening in school to follow.



*We hope your child has enjoyed the activities and staff stories this week – it has been wonderful to receive so many lovely comments from the children about the books they have enjoyed.*

*We have had lots of entries for the potato or spoon book character competition – some of which are included in the class pages. Winners for each year group will be announced in school next week. Congratulations to all who entered – it is certainly going to be a tough job selecting the winners!*

*Entries for the National Book Token competition can either be posted individually from home or handed in at school by 3:15pm on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March for us to post.*

### **Workshop for Parents – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 6pm**

Many of you may have attended previous sessions led by Martin Galway (Herts for Learning English Advisor). He works closely with us in school to help us continue to develop and enhance our English provision. He also runs training sessions for teachers and teaching assistants.

On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March, he will be leading a remote session for parents about developing children's writing. We hope that as many parents will be able to attend as possible. Martin has a wealth of knowledge and his training is always engaging and inspiring.

Further details to follow.



### **A Thought from Reverend Jenny**

**Rivers do not drink their own water;  
trees do not eat their own fruit;  
the sun does not shine on itself and flowers do not spread their  
fragrance for themselves.**

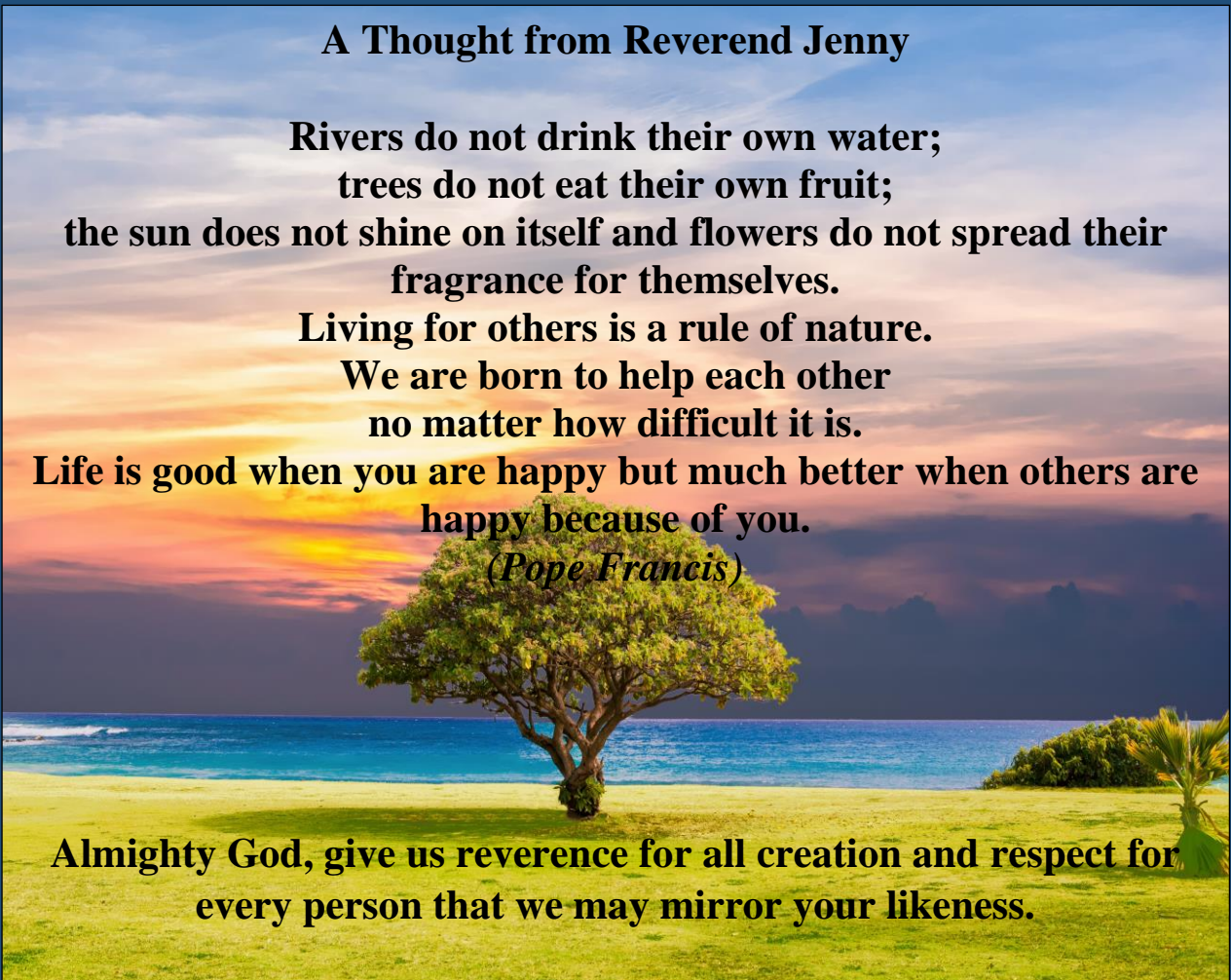
**Living for others is a rule of nature.**

**We are born to help each other  
no matter how difficult it is.**

**Life is good when you are happy but much better when others are  
happy because of you.**

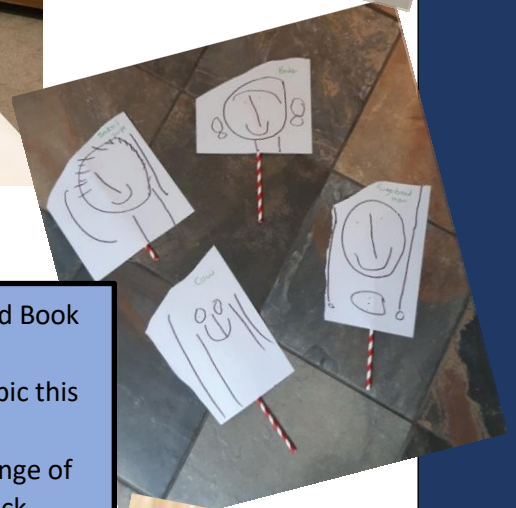
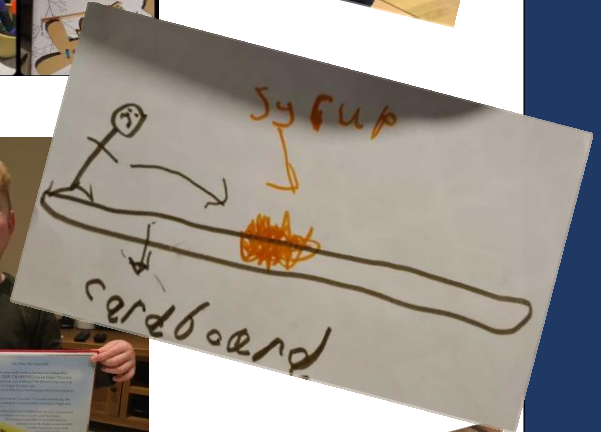
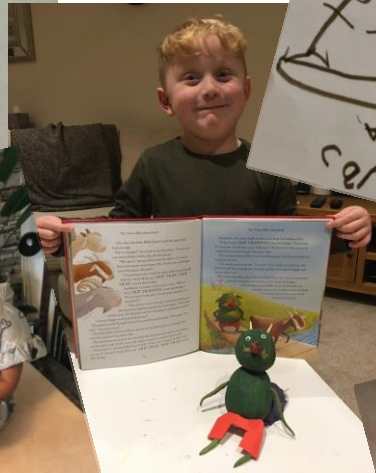
***(Pope Francis)***

**Almighty God, give us reverence for all creation and respect for  
every person that we may mirror your likeness.**

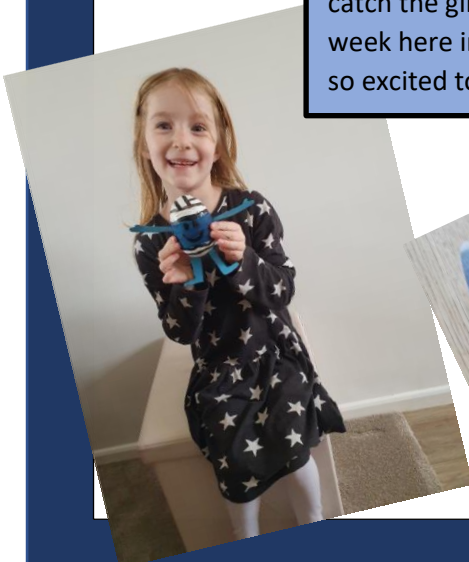




# Shackadell Class

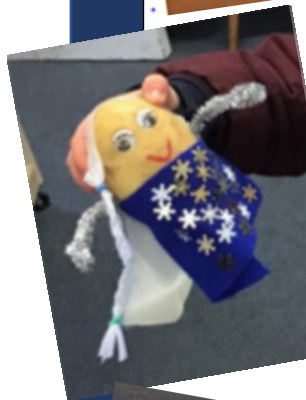
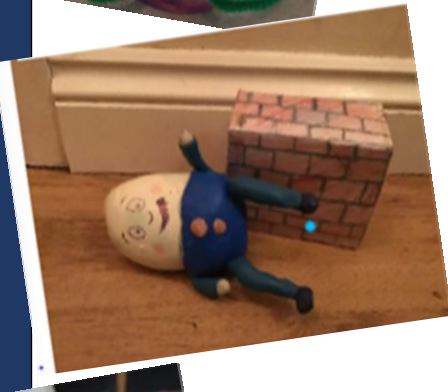


We hope you have all enjoyed celebrating World Book Day this week. We have loved seeing all your wonderful spoon and potato puppets. In our topic this week, we have also been learning about "The Gingerbread Man" and experimenting with a range of joining materials to make finger puppets and stick puppets. The children also designed a trap to help catch the gingerbread man. It's been a very creative week here in Shackadell, we hope you had fun! We are so excited to welcome you all back on Monday!

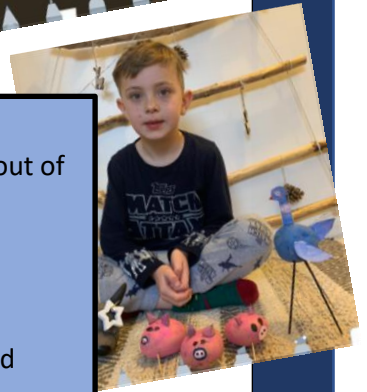




# Peartree Class



Hi Peartree,  
Thank you again for all the amazing work you are all doing in or out of school.  
Everyone has been working so hard.  
We are really looking forward to seeing you all back in class next week.  
Here are a few photos of some of the things we did during 'World Book Week'.  
See you soon,  
Mrs Baker, Mrs Goodfellow and Miss Heritage ❤️



Lucas reading in the car on Saturday.





# Orchard Class



Hello everyone!

We hope you have enjoyed all of the activities for World Book Day this week! We have loved seeing what you have been getting up to.

Well done to each and every one of you for the fantastic home learning you have been doing lately, you are all superstars. We are so excited to see you all back in school next week!

From

Mrs Merry, Miss Branagan and Mrs Davies

**My Book Review**

Title: *Sam and the Great Book*

Author: *David Fick*

Would I recommend the book? *yes*

Why is this book your favourite book?

*because the great book is very good and the author wrote it very well. I like the book and played for hours with it. I like the book because it is very happy.*

Draw your favourite character from the book!

*I am so pleased you enjoyed this book. I hope you like it, it's one of my favourites too!*

**My Book Review**

Title: *Horrid Henry's Thank you letter*

Author: *Francesca Simon*

Would I recommend the book? *yes, definitely!!!!*

My Rating: *5 stars*

Why is this book your favourite book?

**This book is a great book, it is so hilarious because Henry wrote the funniest letter ever. Infact you should read it.**

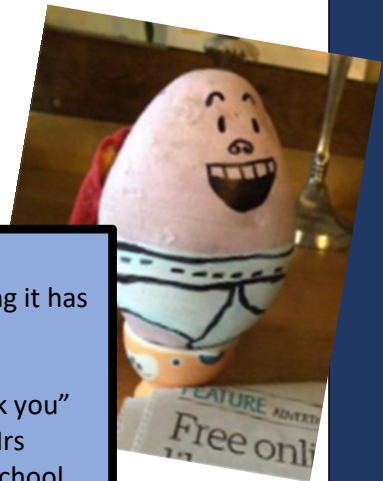
Draw your favourite character from the book!

*It is fantastic to see that you enjoyed this book so much Ethan! Thank you for the recommendation too!*



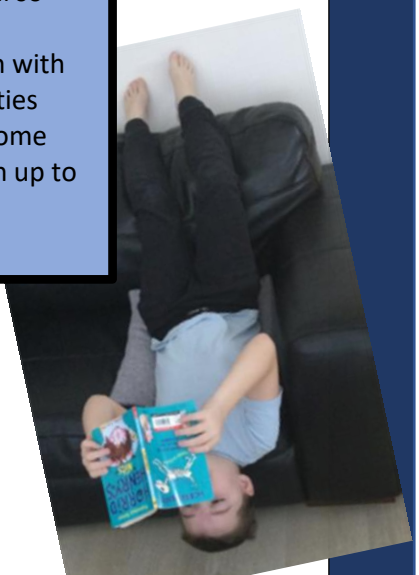
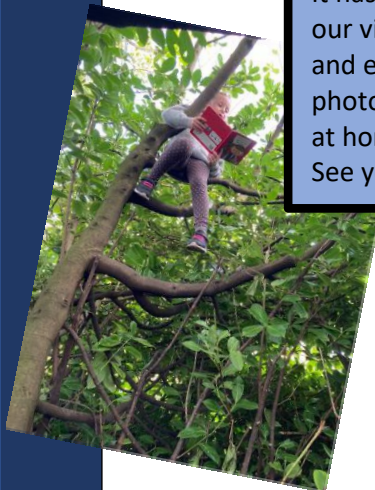


# Haffydown Class



Hello Haffydown,  
Wow, what an incredible eight weeks of home learning it has been! An enormous well done to you all for your perseverance and continuous engagement with your learning through these challenging times. A big "thank you" must also go to all your parents for supporting you. Mrs Evans and I are so excited to welcome you back into school next week. I bet you can't wait to play, learn and have fun with all your friends again too. We have missed you all so much!

It has been wonderful to see so many of you joining in with our virtual World Book Week, taking part in the activities and enjoying the stories staff have shared. Here are some photos of all the book related activities you have been up to at home.  
See you all next week!



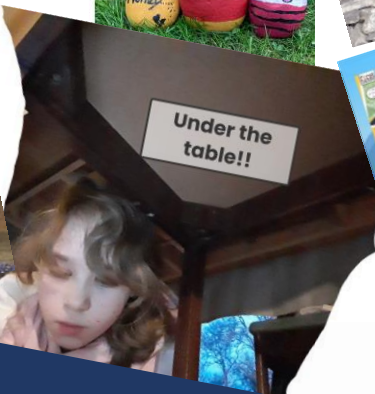


# Danes Class



Danes class – you have been simply amazing! Your dedication, determination and positivity have impressed us so much throughout the period of remote learning. You are wonderful young people with wonderful families whose support has been incredible. Thank you.

We simply can't wait to see you all back in school next week.







## 1<sup>st</sup> DAY of SPRING Benefice

ZOOM QUIZ 7 30pm

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March

The Ministry Team invite you to join in celebrating the arrival of spring with a

benefice ZOOM QUIZ Email Martin Lynas [mdlynas@gmail.com](mailto:mdlynas@gmail.com) to join.

By popular request Ann will be quiz master again. Get a **TEAM NAME** and **LUCKY MASCOT**.

A **JOKER** card will **double** your score on (hopefully) your *best* round.

A **DONKEY** card will **halve** your points on (hopefully) your *worst* round.

BYO drinks and nibbles (obviously!)



**Have fun together - this is NOT Mastermind and you keep your own score.**

The **MARATHON** round (thanks to Fern) will be sent round in advance. **If YOU would like to SUBMIT a round please email Ann [edwardsa@ntlworld.com](mailto:edwardsa@ntlworld.com)** We'll let you know the rounds are in next week's newsletter. Click the zoom link from **7 15pm** while we find our sound and video and catch up before the Quiz begins at **7 30pm**

**Happy Spring Quizzing**