



SPRING 2 NEWSLETTER

ELLACOMBE C OF E ACADEMY & LITTLE STARS CHILDCARE CENTRE



Head of Academy Update

Dear Families,

I find myself writing this just after Ellacombe, like schools nationally, closed for most of our children. It is a very strange feeling to not be able to welcome you all through our gates each day but our school staff are now adjusting to working in new ways to support you, our community.

These certainly are tricky times but we wanted to continue with our newsletter. In this newsletter, we wanted to share with you both the positive things which took place in school before the closure **and** also re share with you some of the things we're doing to support you, our community during this time.

Looking back at all the whizzy things that we did, as a school, in February and early March is heart-warming and reminds us all how special and creative our children are. We hope this newsletter brings a smile to your faces and also gives you helpful information about the ways in which we're connecting with you.

Please do keep an eye out on our social media pages as we're really stepping up our connectivity with you. As well as this, we'll be writing to you with regular updates via email.

Sending you all best wishes, stay safe and let's keep being kind to one another even in such tough times.

Mrs Semmens

"I've been taking a walk near my home for my daily exercise (although the walk back up is a far too steep!). Have you managed a short walk close to your home? We'd love to see some of your photos on our social media pages!"





Over 200 children submitted work to the Home and Heritage Art Project this term! Mrs Leach, who led the competition said the judging panel found it incredibly hard choosing overall winners. With her own children's entries involved, Mrs Leach used the power of a panel of people and no names to have a true picture of the quality of work! Mrs Whalley and

Mrs Wright led the competition with the academy itself, running clubs for children at lunch and then for families after school. A huge thank you to them! The theme of Home and Heritage saw some very moving pieces including children sharing some poignant times in their lives of those of their families.

Reflecting the quality of this whole project, Mrs Leach, Rev Sam and their children took part in a Radio Devon interview telling the whole region all about it Ellacombe and staff even had a 'shout out!'"

We have been truly touched by the art work and wanted to thank families for engaging so openly in this work.

Our children truly are an inspiration to us all!





More Art!.....

Before Christmas, Year 5 had the exciting opportunity to work with the Rotary Club for an art competition. 16 children were selected to work alongside an art specialist, within the Rotary Club, and Mrs Lindberg to draw self portraits. These portraits were first drawn then the children were able to paint the picture.

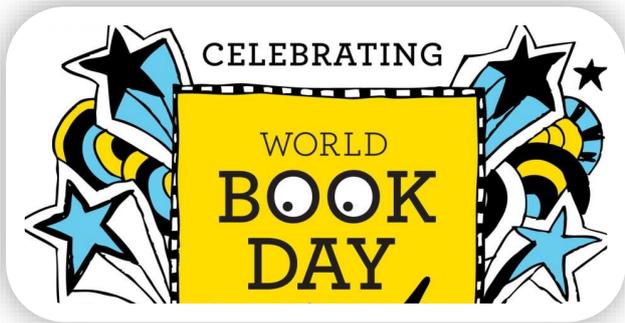
These portraits were judged by the Rotary Club and each child was awarded a certificate and their picture. Three winners were chosen and each received a wonderful prize of art goodies!

As well as this, we were presented with a fabulous display of all the portraits printed onto a canvas for us to proudly display in school! Thank you to the Rotary Club who took the time to work with the children and present us with our canvas!



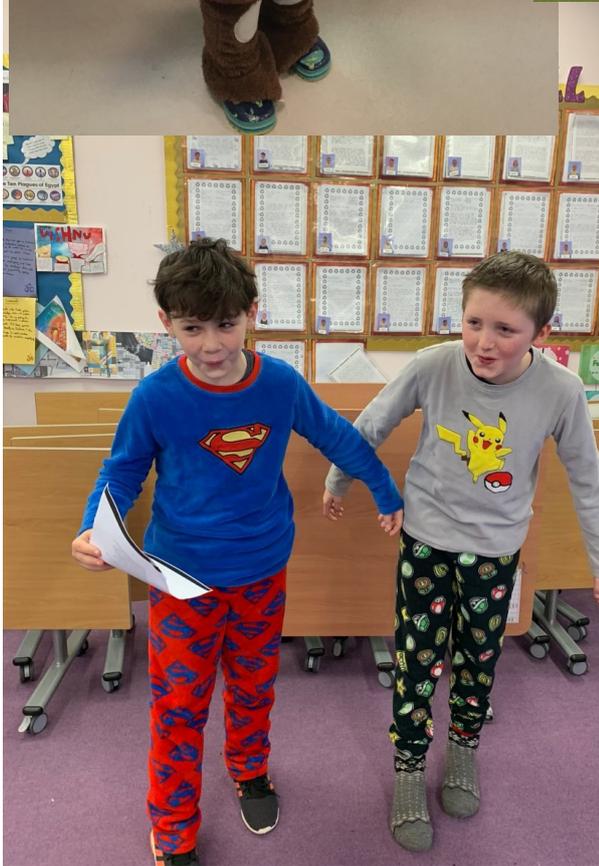
Earlier this month our Year 4 children enjoyed a three day residential to Heatree Activity Centre on Dartmoor. All of the children had an amazing time and showed fantastic team work. They arrived back at school feeling a little tired but having made some wonderful memories which they were all excited to share with their peers. Well done Year 4's!





We had amazing time celebrating World Book Day at the academy. We immersed ourselves in stories and used our drama skills to act out our favourite ones!

Our nursery children enjoyed a visit from Mrs Semmens who read them Hairy Mclary from Donaldson's Dairy!



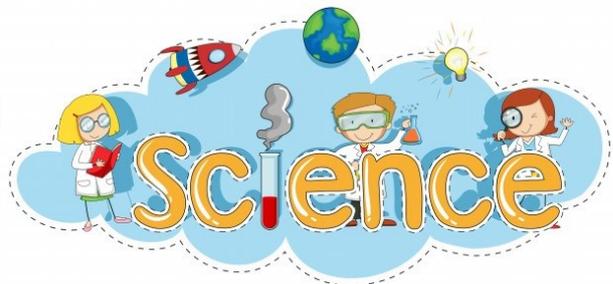
Torquay
Rotary



To expand their knowledge of life history, the Little Lions and Little Bears welcomed Ellacombe's much loved Rotary Club into their classroom. They learnt all about the life cycle of the bean and what they need to do to ensure that they grow into happy and healthy plants. With such a wide variety of skilled and experienced people to help, all the children were able to plant a variety of beans from all around the world whilst talking about where they had originated from, and what they needed to survive. All the Little Lions and Little Bears thoroughly enjoyed spending time with their special visitors and listening to their stories of what they did when they were young. They are very much looking forward to seeing them again to show them how well they cared for their bean plants.



There was lots of Science Week fun in Little Stars as we explored solids and liquids, making curds and whey like Little Miss Muffet! We also explored colour mixing and chemical reactions making fizzy rainbows with bicarbonate and coloured vinegar. Lots of concentration, wondering and fun!





Whilst the academy remains closed we will be using our Facebook and Twitter pages to have regular, fun and hopefully helpful ways of connecting:

- ◇ Monday morning we'll be sharing with you some of the things our staff have been up to.
- ◇ Tuesday morning we'll be setting mini challenges for the children to do at home.
- ◇ Tuesday lunchtime a post will allow you to ask questions to a different member of staff each week. This could be linked to top tips to stay at home with the children, home learning, family support or general questions. The responses will be posted on Wednesday.
- ◇ Wednesday afternoon we will be sharing your answers from Tuesday's questions.
- ◇ Thursday morning, we will be setting a 'Riddle of the Day' to our children and families.
- ◇ Friday morning, we will be posting the answer to the previous day's Riddle of the Day
- ◇ Friday lunchtime we are asking for families to challenge the staff again via our post, please reply to the post using #EllacombeStaffChallenges. Each week a different member of staff will take on one challenge and post their efforts the following week.



Don't forget our website has home learning links and fun activities for all year groups, please follow this link:
<https://ellacombe-lap.co.uk/parents/coronavirus/>

Even though Ellacombe is closed to most pupils, we are still here for you. If you want to contact a member of our team or have questions (not linked to the connections listed above), please use our email ellacombe@lapsw.org or the My Ed App to send a free message and we'll arrange a call back.

We're here for you

A taster of what you can find on our social media pages!..

Would you expect Mrs Strange to be doing anything else?!
Isolation doesn't feel quite so bad when there's a world of creative possibilities to explore. What musical instruments could you make at home?
"When you can't go outside, go within".



Whilst at home I have been spending some quality time with my family and Oscar the dog. I have really enjoyed going on a daily walk in the sunshine and taking part in the Joe Wicks P.E lesson every morning.

During my time at home I have been keeping fit doing yoga outside in the glorious weather (unless I get distracted by my sun loving cat Mali), planting seeds ready for the Summer and catching up on some much loved reading.



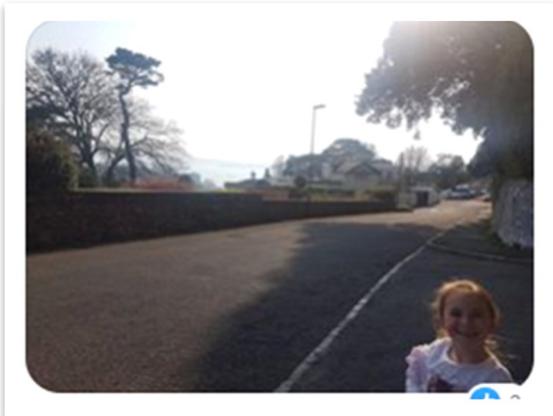
Email: ellacombe@lapsw.org

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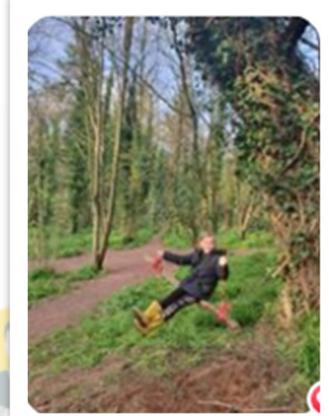
Twitter: [@EllacombeLAP](https://twitter.com/EllacombeLAP)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/EllacombeLAP/

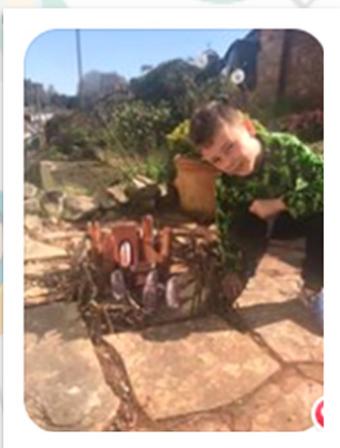
Just a few of the wonderful photos and comments that you, our families, have been sharing with us on social media. Thank you for connecting with us at this strange time!



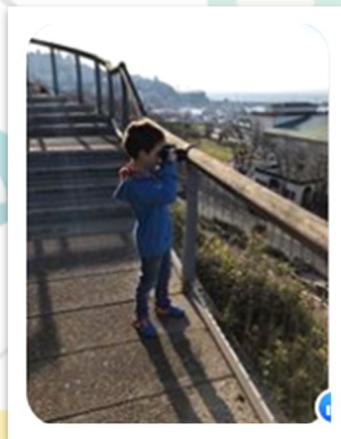
"Lovely walk yesterday, saw some beautiful views"



"I was walking in the woods near the house and playing 'Magical forest' and I'm planning to make a story about it"



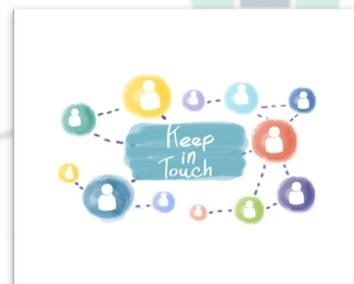
"We've been taking walks with our dogs through the fields, but Toryn's been taking advantage of the sun building Roman forts in the front garden!"



"We went for a walk from home - it was very steep on the way back but got some good pictures!"



"We didn't take a photo on our little walk but the boys are enjoying Twister in the garden"



Email: ellacombe@lapsw.org

Website: www.ellacombe-lap.co.uk

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