

The Leys Primary and Nursery School Newsletter

★ Accelerating progress

★ Enriching wellbeing

★ Promoting partnerships

05/02/21

Star of the Week

	Pod	Remote
Zephaniah	Dhyay	Noah
Anderson	N/A	Aiden
Sendak	Austin	Gracie-May
Carle	Emily	Brianna
Hargreaves	N/A	Isla
Ahlberg	N/A	Liam
Dahl	Lily	Tiara
Freedman	Rebecca	Luke
Strong	Oliver	Bobby
Pratchett	Jessica	Kaitlyn
Morpurgo	Charles	Veda
Tolkien	Gaja	William
Lewis	Muneeb	Abigail
Rosen	Isabelle	Nikodem
Shakespeare		Rubon
Dickens		Riley S
Kipling		Oliver

Coming up...during half term



We were all so sad at the passing of our national hero Captain Sir Tom Moore! He was an inspiration to us all !!!!!
Join us to celebrate his memory by taking part in the

100

challenge over half term! Your child can decide on their challenge activity- their fastest 100 steps, 100 star jumps, 100 skips, 100 jumps, 100 hops on one foot!

Remember to take a photo of your child and upload it to the Google classroom or on Tapestry! Don't forget to add what challenge they chose!



Over the half term we challenge our pupils to READ READ READ! Read somewhere creative... in your homemade den, under the stairs, behind the couch...! They need to use their imagination to find a comfy spot in the house...or outside if they are brave enough!

Just take a photo of your child and upload it to their Google classroom or on Tapestry!

Class of the week	Year 1
Friendship Cup	
Headteacher Awards	YEAR
Nila, Lexi M	RECEPTION
Paige, Luke, Ivy, Oliver S, Amina	TWO
James	FOUR
Daisy, Oliver, Rubon, Ife, Oscar	SIX

SHOUT OUT

A BIG SHOUT OUT this week to Year 1. They have been working so hard at school and at home! This week they have been constructing some really creative castles and enjoying being creative during Mental Health Week! Check out the ebook they have made to celebrate all the work they have been collecting over the last few weeks!!! Well done Year 1!

BOOK and PACK

COLLECTION (letter out today)

We are inviting parents and carers into school on THURSDAY 11th FEBRUARY to

- Collect new packs

Pupils will need these for their learning after half term

- Books to read over half term

Pupils will need books for the 'Catch me Reading' competition

NEXT WEEK IS :

CHINESE NEW YEAR at SCHOOL



On Friday 12th we dress in red and yellow

It is also ONLINE SAFETY WEEK

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over half term
See you then!

Highlights of the Week! Children's Mental Health Week

Reception

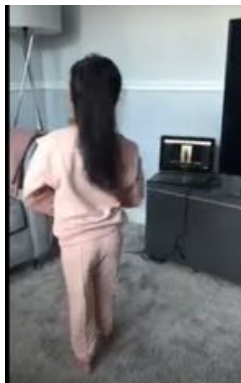
The children have been working hard on building their friendship skills this week during child initiated learning. We have also enjoyed the daily dance from Mr Sapsed.



We have been sharing conversations during snack time, taking turns to talk and listen. Each child has shared their thoughts and ideas.



Year 1



Kyler-May



Nathania

Year 1 have really enjoyed taking care of their mental health by joining in with Mr Sapsed's wellbeing dances all week.

Kyler-May especially liked his Strictly Come Dancing routine. Jackie thinks that Mr Sapsed would be amazing on Strictly and she would definitely be supporting him.

The children in the key worker pod have been discussing mental health week a lot. We started the week with discussing feelings, we were all feeling tired on Monday morning! We have also been busy focussing on ourselves and thinking about why we are special, the different things we like, what we enjoy and what makes us happy. We have completed a different yoga session each day after lunch to reflect and unwind.



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Year 2

The children have had fun with some really good activities this week. They have LOVED Mr Sapsed's dances and have been enjoying expressing themselves through dance, drawings and poems
Everyone has been at home this week as our pod has been closed and we have all been trying to think of new online games we can play in our Google Meets.
We have also been telling lots of riddles to get us all thinking outside the box.



A screenshot of Gabi throwing herself into Mr Sapsed's dance video!

Year 3

This week we have had a big focus on the children's wellbeing. We have focused on happy times and what makes us special. The children have also had the opportunity for meditation and dance sessions. We have also told a lot of jokes and spent so much time laughing! Here is a copy of one of the poems the children have written this week.

Unique by Luke Wilson

Unique, clever, smart and fun

Never naughty or pain in the bum!

I love gaming, smiling and walking

Quality time with family, talking

Upside down, feeling crazy

Everyday learning, sometimes lazy!

The children in the key worker pods have had a brilliant week! We have been doing guided meditations and expressive dance. We have created our own feeling mandalas, acrostic poems and had circle time with cookies to talk about our feelings and anxieties. Friday is our mindful baking day! Stay tuned for the results!

Poem about mental Health by Shikana and Ella

My mind is not working properly.
I am eating less food and nothing is going right.
The vaccine is working but all the people are scared.

Little can do a lot.
My heart is beating fast and everybody tries to help me.
The anxiety is taking over.
Only the lucky people survive.
The body is shaking...hello can you hear me?

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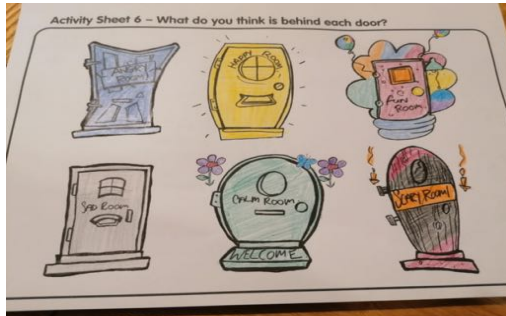
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Year 4

The children doing remote learning this week have enjoyed taking part in Mr Sapsted's dances each morning, we have introduced some breathing activities and had a focus on well-being in the afternoons. On Tuesday we thought about things that make us happy, sad, angry or scared. We then decorated doors to demonstrate these feelings.



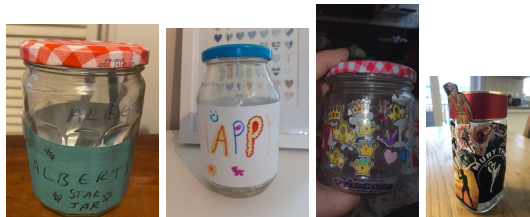
In the Y4 pod we discussed the 5 ways to a great wellbeing: give, be active, keep learning, connect and take notice.

We created wellbeing trees using finger paints and then we made leaves with the 5 key messages. We also discussed different types of feelings and made our own posters with wellbeing quotes.



Year 5

The children doing remote learning have loved joining in with Mr Sapsed's dances this week. We have been discussing how people's mental health may be affected by lockdown and then we thought about positives that have come out of lockdown. It was lovely to celebrate all of the children's skills and achievements. Finally, we made positivity jars and filled them with positive affirmations and things we can each be proud of. Well done year 5!



For Children's Mental Health week this week, the children in Key worker pod have been expressing themselves through writing poems about themselves. They have been writing about all the things that make them them. They have been great to read.

I like front flipping on a trampoline,
I'd love to be in a football team,
I'm always so bubbly,
And think life is lovely jubbly
Oh my life is one big dream.
Beatrice Duhamel - Lewis

Year 6

Year 6 proved very capable with their use of technology

The children also provided to be a dab hand when it comes to baking with both Joshua J

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with Daisy making an interactive mental health poster on Scratch with the characters giving advice when you clicked on them.



While Joshua H made an action-packed and humorous short film called 'Penguin Flipper'.



and Riley S making some very tasty cakes



Writer of the Week-
Grace R
Hargreaves

Grace wrote a short story about the adventures of a Contortionist girl and her friends, a group of superheroes who save the day. Well done Grace!

It was a ordinary day contortionist girl was moving very fast in backbend and ice girl was making ice decorations for the house. And flight girl was doing a lot of swirly flying and fire girl was helping the sunshine bright. But then contortionist girl was forced into a bridge! Oh no! Looks like Mr Big is causing badness! It is time for a adventure girls! Meet me in the town hall ok said the girls when they araverd in the town hall ice girl said you might want to check this out! There was a big water balloon what do we do? Said ice girl. Well ice girl hop on flight girls back she will get you there. Fire girl go to Mr Bigs liar I will warn everybody in town lets get to work when fire girl was at Mr Bigs liar um Mr Big was not there Mr Big? Said fire girl oh no this was a trap! Fire girl was locked up, hope ice girl is having better luck than me said fire girl. Ice girl is nearly there to the water bloon. Alomot there said ice girl she froze the water balloon! Horay said all the girls yippee said the boys all was safe problem over said ice girl is wheres fire girl? Said conortionist girl

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WELLBEING



As you can see above it has been very busy, as everyone has been participating in **Children's Mental Health Week** and developing further awareness about mental health, together with important strategies to express themselves. The focus for the week has been about encouraging the children to find ways to share feelings, thoughts, or ideas, through creativity. It is about finding a way to show who you are, and how you see the world, that can help you feel good about yourself. Also about engaging with an activity, so that you are in the moment. Not about producing perfect results! We hope that the children have enjoyed the week and also learnt more about themselves and strategies to manage difficult emotions. (Perhaps a few parents have learnt some too!) We have seen some fantastic ideas and work from the children and Mr Sapsford's daily dance has been a highlight for many of us. If you would like more ideas from Place2be about supporting well-being at home, click on the link below.

<https://www.place2be.org.uk/our-services/parents-and-carers/coronavirus-wellbeing-activity-ideas-for-families/>

Last week the mental health leads also attended the **Hertfordshire Primary School Pastoral Conference**. Where we heard what is happening with CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service), how to access advice and support and current best practice for supporting both staff, children and families. Also about transition support for Year 6 from Watford Football Club, supporting children experiencing anxiety and how music can be used to teach strategies to support mental health. An exhausting online experience but we got some useful ideas for school.

Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural and British Values

Year 6 have been very busy with their home learning this week. They have been busy learning about energy and a variety of the different global goals, such as sustainability and no hunger.

The children in Year 6 have produced some poetry and writing to demonstrate our learning.

They have also been undertaking some social activities (as much as possible at home!) by baking cakes and making salt dough with those in our households.



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These have been very difficult times but through it all the children of the Leys have continued to develop their knowledge of lots of different science topics.



EYFS - Have been learning about boats and are going to be challenged to test things from around their homes **to see what floats and what sinks** and then record what they have found in different ways such as written, photographed or videoed.



Year 1 - The children have been **learning about the properties of different everyday materials**. They enjoyed finding different objects around the house and testing them to find their properties. They were using new key vocabulary such as opaque, transparent, absorbent and not absorbent.

Year 2 - They have also been learning about materials and have done a scavenger hunt **to find materials which they then tested the properties of**. They have also buried things to check for biodegradability. They have also been playing 'what's the odd one out?' Which has been a good starter for discussions on meets.

Year 3 - Have been learning about light. They have **investigated the best reflective materials to design** a new bookbag. We have also used mirrors to do mirror writing and using them to try and walk a wiggly line just by looking up. The children loved it and even extended it by creating their own lines to use with the mirror. Then looked at symmetry too.

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Year 4- In Y4 they have been following planned lessons, and so far have been covering Habitats. ***In habitats, they have been looking at what happens when environments change***, if this be from climate change or due to humans more directly. They spent a lesson looking at the effects of palm oil on the habitats of orangutans. This week they have started a new topic in science, looking at the digestive system.

They started this by looking at an overview of the digestive system looking at how all the parts of the digestive system work together. with the children looking at what would happen if a part of the digestive system was missing. Such as the mouth as you wouldn't be able to eat or chew the food

Year 5- They have done a few experiments towards the topic of materials. ***First they tested a range of properties for household items and then testing different materials specifically for their ability to absorb water.*** For the second lesson they even demonstrated the test on-camera to support the children.

Parents commented on how engaging it was for their children. The children have been surprised by some of the results they have produced and it has led to some interesting thoughts about how to design materials for a particular purpose.

Year 6- The children have engaged well with Science and built on their expanding knowledge of 'Living things and their Habitats' by ***looking at the classification of vertebrates and describing some of the characteristics of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians.*** We also looked at the human body and in particular, the skeleto-muscular system, to better understand the function of the skeleton, muscles and joints.

Term dates

Start of term: 3 September 2020
Inset day: 2 September
Term: 3 September -23 October
 Half term holiday: 26 October 2020 - 30 October 2020
Inset day: 2 November
Term: 3 November -18 December
Occasional Day: 7 December
 Christmas holiday: 21 December 2020 - 3 January 2021

Inset day: 4 January
Term: 5 January - 12 February
 Half term holiday: 15 February 2021 - 19 February 2021
Term : 22 February-26 March 2021
 Easter holiday: 29 March 2021 - 9 April 2021

Term: 12 April - 28 May
 Half term holiday: 31 May 2021 - 4 June 2021
Inset Day: 7 June
Term: 8 June-21 July
Inset day 22 July
 Summer holiday: 23 July 2021 - 31 August 2021

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