



Royal Russell Junior School



Newsletter

Spring Term

29th January 2021

Dear Parents and Friends,

The children in Year 5 have been creating some wonderful story videos, inspired by the 'Just So' stories, which I have really enjoyed viewing. The format of the stories will be familiar to many and our students have done a wonderful job in re-imagining and telling stories of their own with excitement and emotion. The animals in the stories are, like us all, influenced by their environments and experiences and are seen to change and develop based on these factors.

In a similar way, I often think about what the current restrictions of lockdown will mean for us, and especially for our children, moving forward. I share your concerns about how so many of the wonderful aspects of being together that are currently missing will impact on our children's lives. However, I also remain constantly hopeful about how our children will also develop positively from this period. Witnessing all that our children are achieving through their online learning and collaboration with each other fills me with pride and joy. I have been impressed with all of their creativity, their resilience and their hopefulness. I am always excited by their passion for learning. As challenging as circumstances are for us all, if this is the tale of how our children became more resilient, creative and collaborative, then we can be hopeful about the future.

Whilst being excited and hopeful about what our children, with your support, are achieving, we must continue to be mindful of the negative effects that lockdown has on young people. We will all have first-hand experience of the effects of restrictions on young people's mental health and it is important that we do all we can to understand these challenges and promote good mental health. Next week is [Children's Mental Health Week](#) and through the theme of 'Express Yourself' we will be finding ways to share feelings, thoughts, or ideas, through creativity. You can find all the details in Mrs Pain's Safeguarding Corner addition to the newsletter.

Looking forward, your weekly email from your child's class teachers will contain information about upcoming reports and parent consultation evenings. We look forward to using this as a good opportunity to connect with you and discuss your child's progress.

My continued thanks for your support throughout this term. I hope that you enjoy this week's newsletter and the window that it provides into all that the children have been learning.
Best wishes for a relaxing and safe weekend.

John Evans
Headmaster, Junior School

Safeguarding Corner



Next week is Children's Mental Health Week between 1st and 7th February 2021. There has never been a more important time to focus on our children's mental health in age appropriate ways. The pandemic has affected our normal lives in so many ways; as adults this can be difficult to comprehend, especially in an ever-changing world, and for our children it can make the world seem a very confusing place.

Children's Mental Health Week provides an opportunity for us to focus on wellbeing and mental health and your Friday email this week details the activities that the children can participate in next week.

Children will respond differently to lockdown and to the uncertainty that the pandemic has brought. In my whole school assembly this week, we looked at the symbolism of a rainbow as well as exploring feelings we may currently have. Some pupils may enjoy increased family time, online learning and staying at home whilst others may feel angry that they are not able to socialise with their friends or continue with their normal activities. Children will react in different ways and present their feelings in different ways. It is important to acknowledge that these feelings are normal and acceptable; it is how we manage our feelings that is important. Our children need to know that it is ok not to be ok.

During Children's Mental Health Week, we will work with our pupils to help them to express themselves and to share their feelings. Our weekly wellbeing Wednesday sessions equip pupils with strategies and skills to look after their mental wellbeing. In addition, all pupils have access to the wellbeing section of Firefly. This is divided into three sections; Nursery and Reception, Year 1 and 2, Upper Juniors. Within these sections are a wealth of resources to explore and manage feelings as well as supporting pupil's mental wellbeing. I would encourage you to explore these with your child.

We are incredibly lucky to be a part of such a supportive community and it is heartening to see our pupils looking after each other even when we are physically apart. If you have any concerns about your child's wellbeing or mental health, please do contact their class teacher in the first instance.

Mrs Sarah Pain
Deputy Head – Pastoral

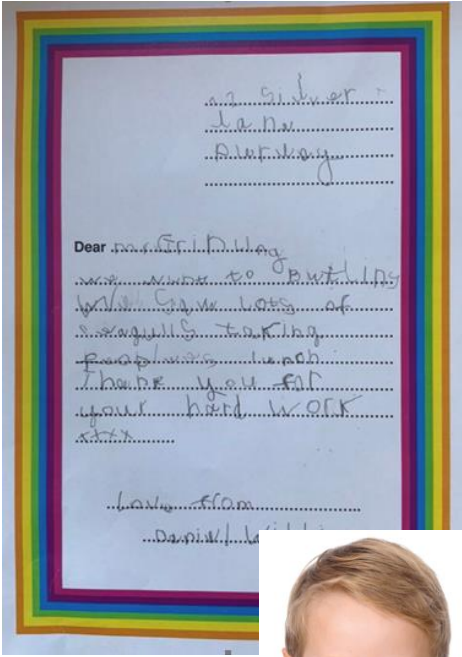
Nursery's Creativity is inspired

Nursery continued their learning remotely this week, but it didn't stop their **'Three Billy Goats Gruff'** inspired creativity...

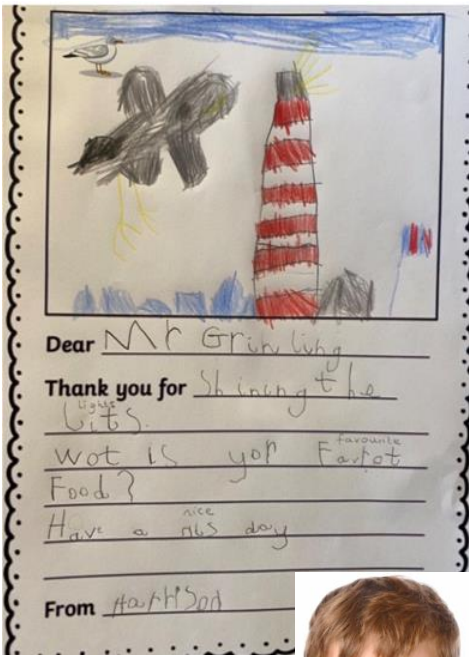


Squirrels and Foxes

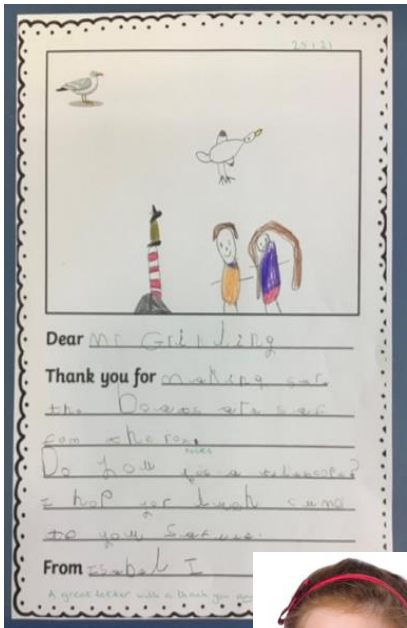
This week in Reception Squirrels and Foxes, we have been reading *'The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch'*. Inspired by this, the children have created some delicious picnic lists and written a letter to Mr Grinling.



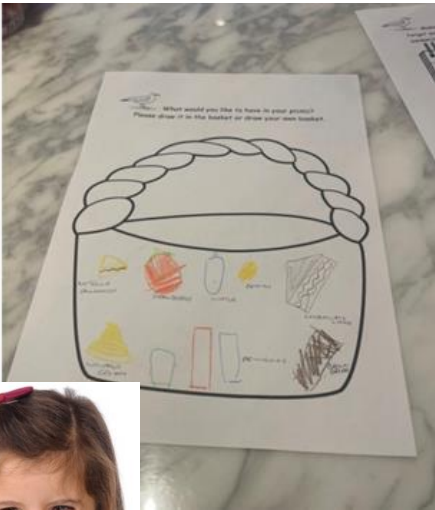
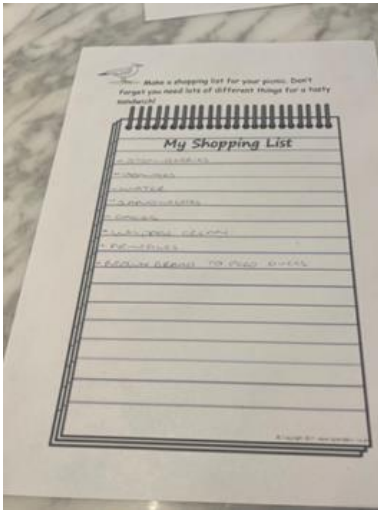
Daniel



Harrison

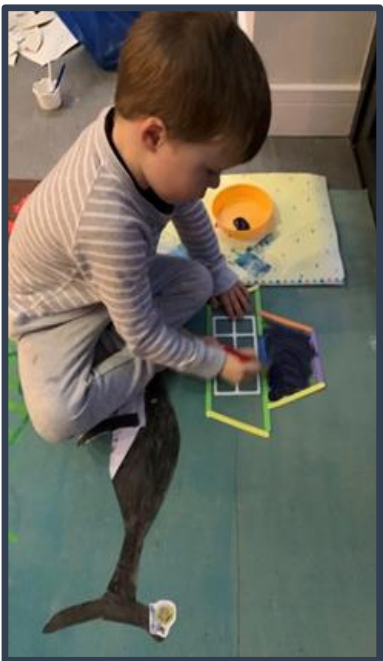


Isabel



Anastasia

In Maths we have been learning about repeated patterns. The children have found objects from home and developed their own **under the sea** inspired patterns.





Daniel

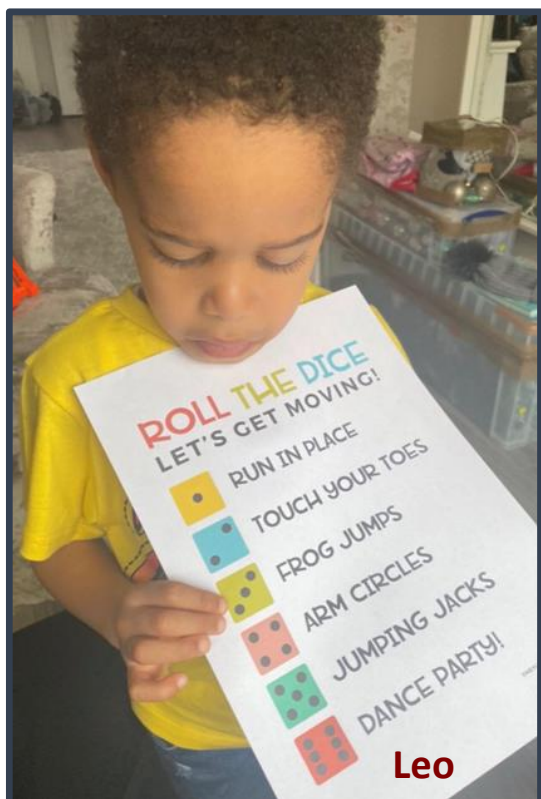


Louis



Caleb

Our **'Well Being Wednesday'** was very active this week. The teachers and children took part in a **'Roll The Dice Challenge'**. The free style **'Dance Party'** was lots of fun. We have had fun with Art and found time to enjoy the snow!



Leo



Harrison

Our Virtual Aquarium Visit

We also went on a virtual tour of a fabulous aquarium in Georgia, America - one of the largest in the world. We made our own Rainbow fish and pretended we were at the aquarium by standing in front of the big screen.



Isabel



Dylan



Khalil



Elliot



Phoebe



Tristan

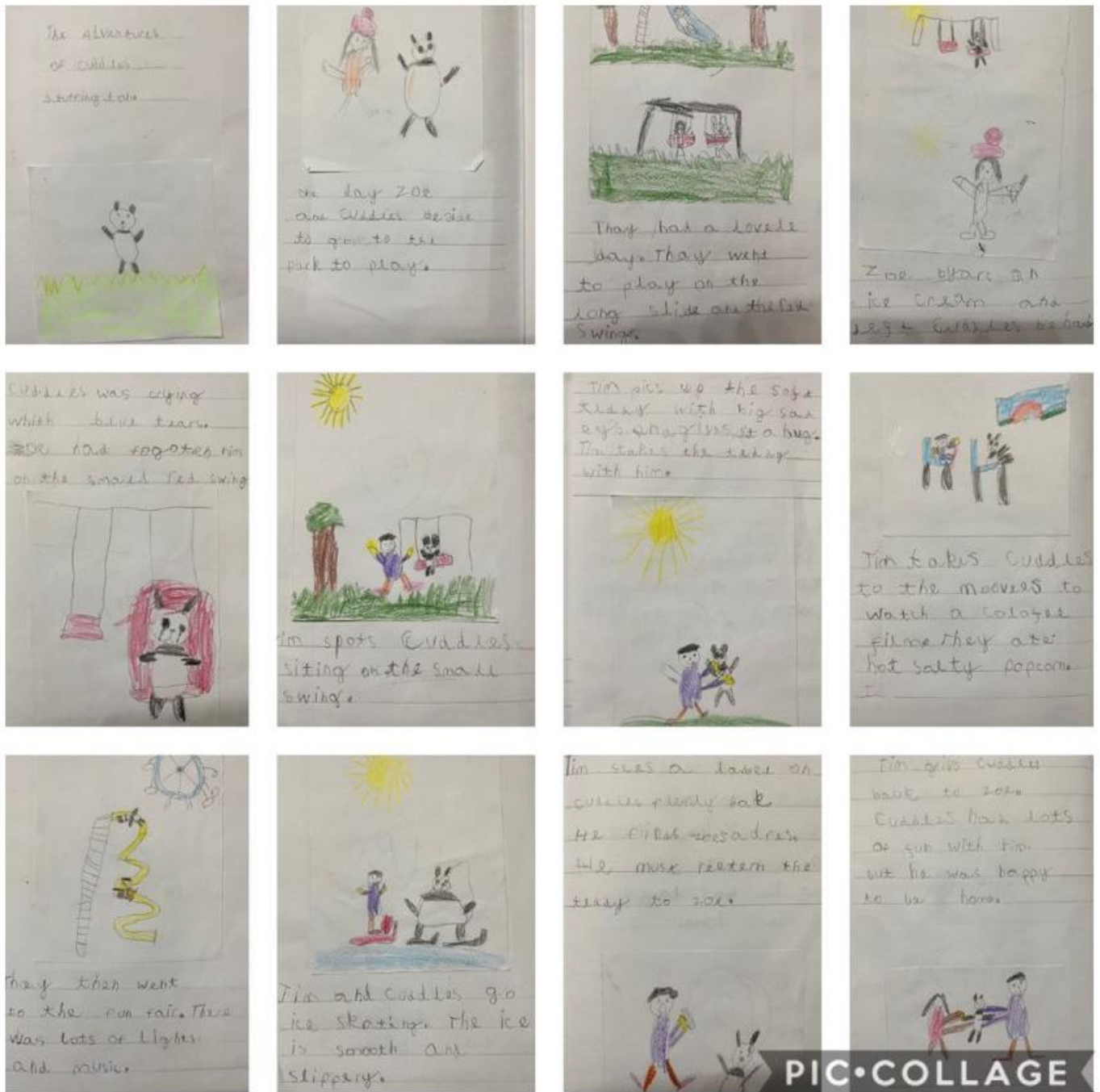


Even Mrs Payne and Mrs Hall had fun under the sea.



Year 1

In English this week, Year 1 have been busy planning and writing their own stories, based on the story of '**Corduroy Bear**'. The children have written and illustrated some fabulous stories and they then made their books come alive by reading them out with lovely expression!



Aisha

Here is Aisha's fabulous story book.

Inter-Bubble Snowman Competition.



Result: Draw

Toy Town in Art and DT

Year 2 have had lots of fun drawing their favourite toys this week in Art. They have been learning to carefully draw the shape of their toys from first-hand observation, before adding colour, texture and tone.

It has been a delight to see the children sharing a piece of home with one another, whilst building skills in using the important formal elements of Art.

Well done Year 2.



Amelia



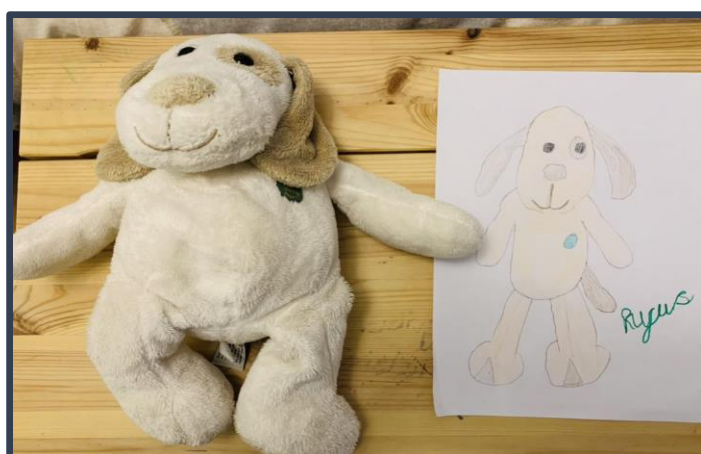
Clara



Alexander



Noah



Aryan

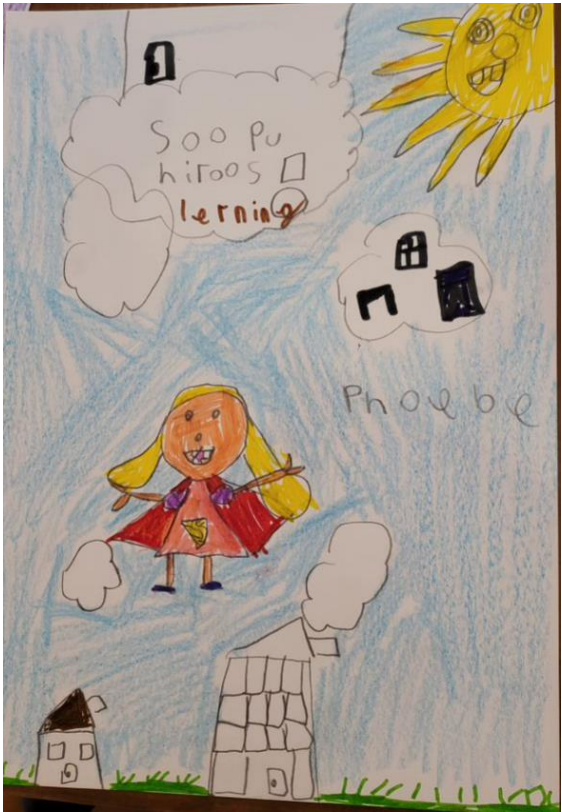




Caleb



Zachariya



Oliver

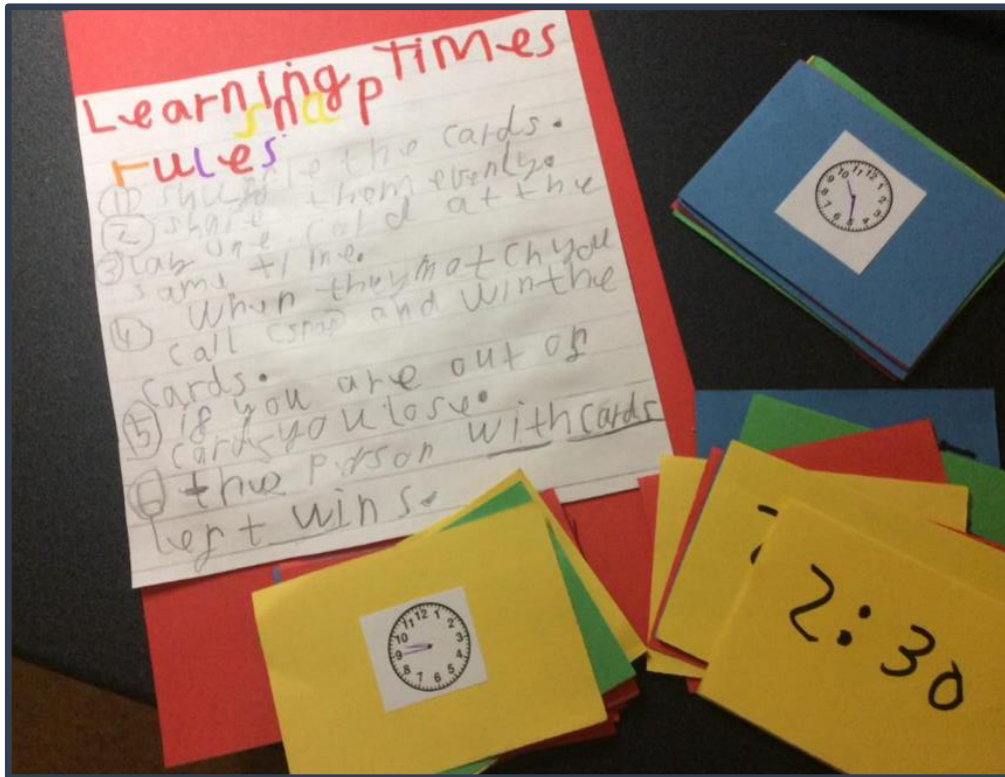
Phoebe



Maths

Year 3 were tasked with creating a Maths game on 'time'.

Izzy designed her own snap clock game. She created and carefully wrote down the rules and worked diligently at it.



Izzy

DoodleMaths Update

Dear parents and carers,

Exciting updates will soon be launching across the Doodle programmes! With fantastic new features and stylish redesigns to enjoy, the enhancements will bring every child's learning to life like never before.

- If your child(ren) is/are accessing through a web browser: no action needed, you're all set!
- If your child(ren) is/are accessing via the downloaded app: make sure auto-updates are enabled
- If you have any questions, head to help.doodlehq.com, where you can find lots of helpful articles and chat with our Parent Support Team.

Happy Doodling!

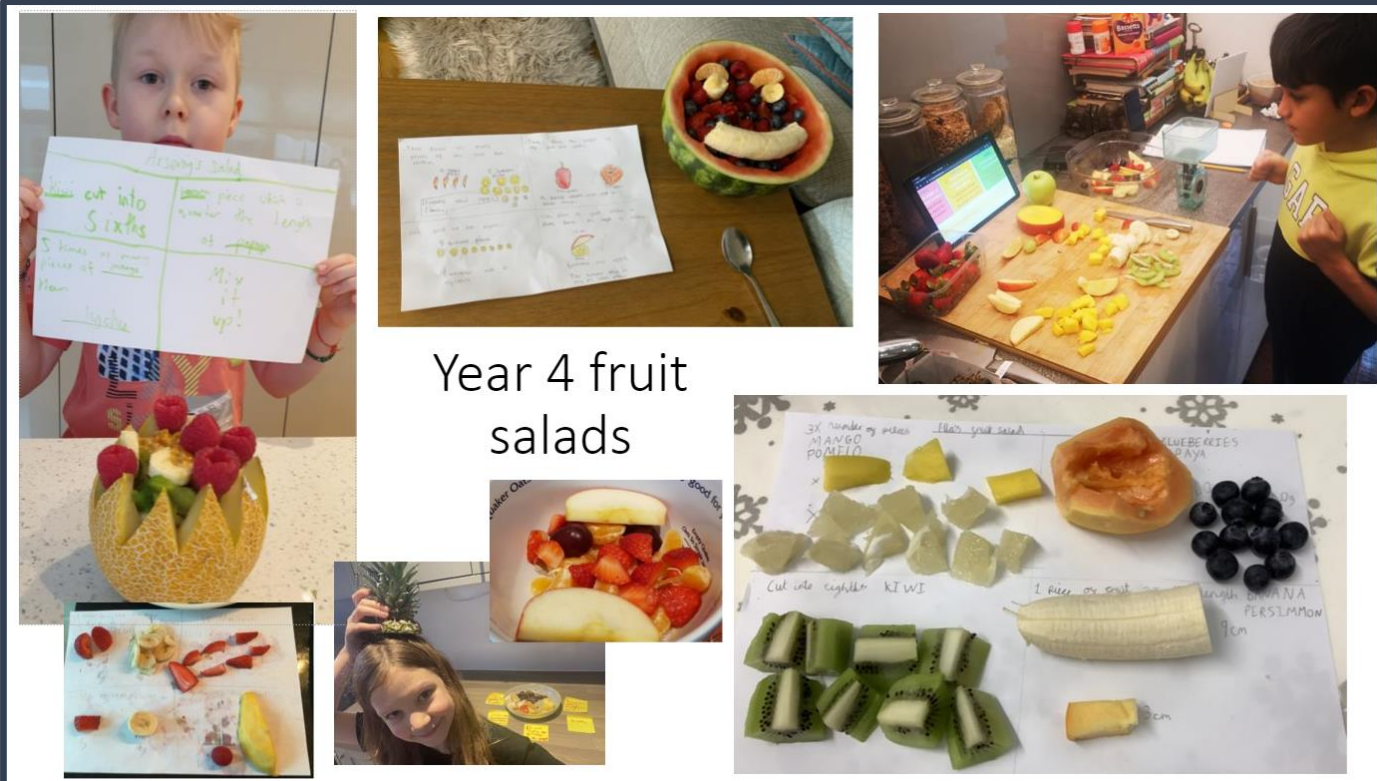
Top Doodlers this week are Reception Foxes with 61% of children on target! Congratulations on winning the trophy this week.

Congratulations to our children who have used DoodleMaths daily to gain amazing 'streak' certificates which were awarded this week... keep it up!



Fruit Salad for Year 4

Year 4 wrote their own recipes and made Fruit Salads



Commemorating VE Day

In Year 5, the children have been studying World War II and, as a culmination of our project, they were finding out about how the war ended. After listening to war time songs and watching video clips, they created posters or carried out research about VE Day. We also discussed how, although this was a joyful occasion, many people found it hard to celebrate after losing loved ones, homes and jobs.



The first celebrations of VE day

- On the 7th May 1945, Germany surrendered, which declared the end of the war in Europe. This is now called VE day, or victory in Europe day. The very next day, people paraded on the streets, everyone came together for the first time in 6 years.
- In Britain, president Churchill announced a public holiday to mark that day. Everything turned into a celebration, flags were raised and parties were held.
- A lot of people in Britain could not wait for the actual VE day, so they celebrated as soon as they heard on the 7th of May. On the night of VE day, people danced crazily, lit bonfires and the pubs were packed.
- These days we still celebrate VE day because of the fact that that was our victory day, that was the day we won!



Amy



Taylor



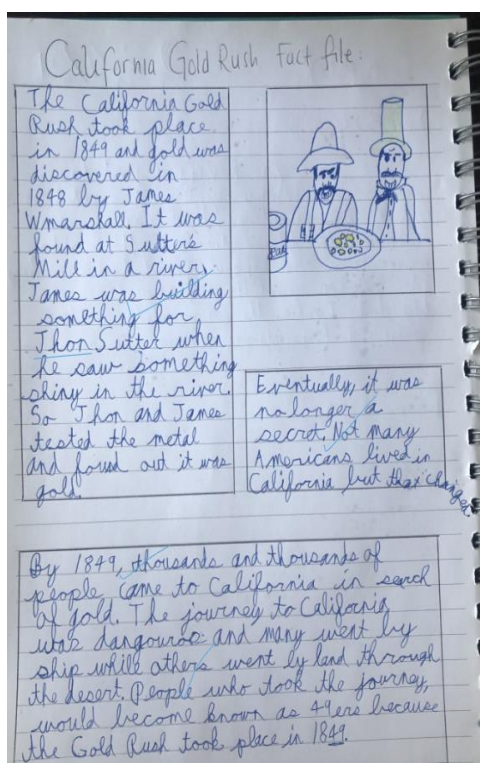
Jem



Rubie

GEOGRAPHY: Gold Rush

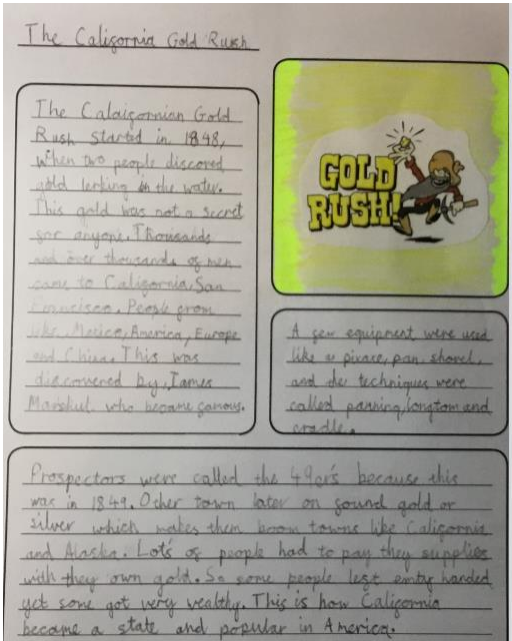
In Geography, the children have been learning about the Gold Rush and created their own Fact Files.



Leke

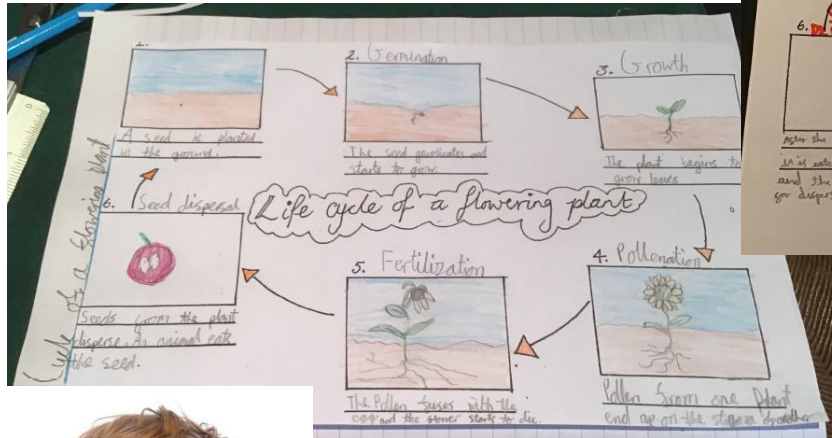


Marie-Louise

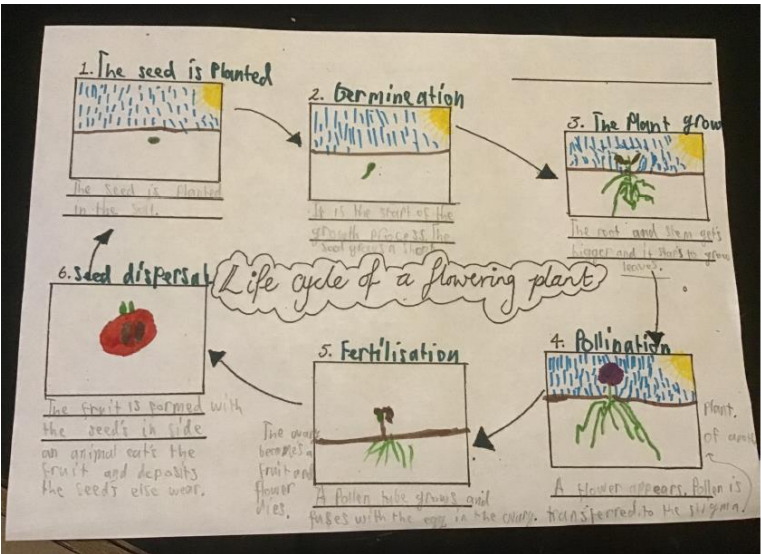


SCIENCE: Life Cycle of a Flowering Plant

Year 5 were asked to create a Life Cycle of a Flowering Plant by including all the processes they have learned about such as germination, pollination and seed dispersal.



Henry



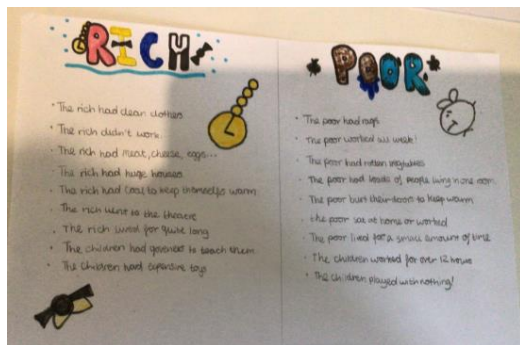
Sam



Lucas

Year 6

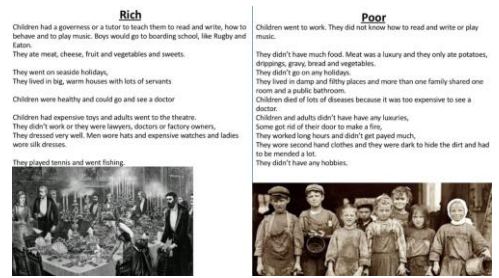
In Year 6, the children have been comparing life for rich people and poor people during Victorian times. They have been thinking about housing conditions, clothing, jobs and hobbies and have spent time independently researching facts to include in their work.



Avni



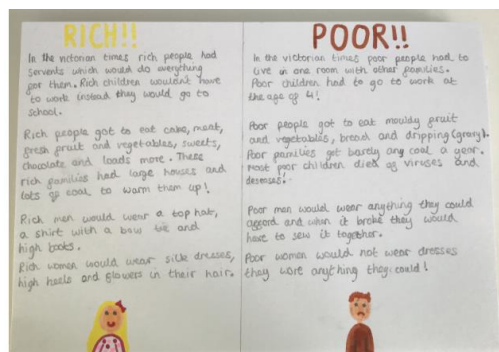
Allegra



Tom



Casper



Jack



Lucas

how an orchid adapts to live in the rainforest.

The Orchids are very well adapted to life in the canopy. They have roots with a large surface area which helps them to rapidly absorb nutrients and water. Their secondary stems can hold stores of water so the plant can stay hydrated during dry periods.

Orchids are able to adapt to their climate. The orchids in the Amazon rainforest have adapted so they have thin, long leaves that absorb all moisture they need. Meanwhile, orchids in dry regions have their leaves covered in wax, which helps them maintain the little moisture they manage to get.



How cacao adapt to live in the rainforest.

A cacao tree is where chocolate comes from. The bark and leaves from this tree are used to make chocolate. The bark is used to make an orange or yellow color. Cacao trees live under the shade of taller rainforest trees. The shade helps to protect the seeds from sunburn, and this also gives it wind protection.



How passionflower adapt to live in the rainforest.

It is called the passionflower because the yellow anthers and the red stigmas resemble the crown that Jesus wore during the passion (his suffering before crucifixion). The passionflower is one of the most beautiful flowers in the rainforest. Passionflower plants are vines. Many vines are found in the canopy layer. They send their flowers down to the forest floor so they can be pollinated by the pollinators as that is where the passionflower lives.



How does the monkey brush vine adapt to live in the rainforest.

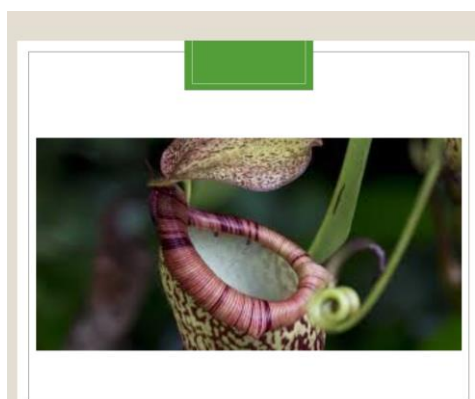
The bright color of the monkey brush vine makes it easily seen throughout the rainforest. It is a bright red flower that grows up and looks like a bright brush. The monkey brush vine grows deep within the Amazon rainforest. The monkey brush vine grows like a parasite which needs other plants to feed itself so it can live.



During Well-being Wednesday, Year 6 have made origami rainforest animals.



Origami rainforest snakes by Gio



Rain Forest Plants

Anya Carroll 6T



Anya wrote a presentation on Rain Forest Plants

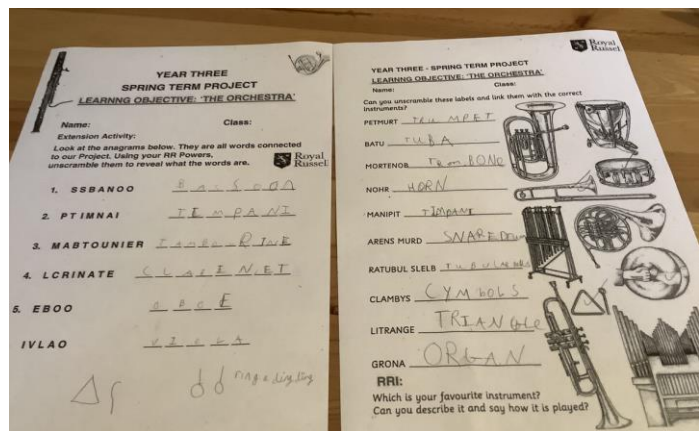
A selection of outstanding work in Music



Dolcie, Year 2,
drew and labelled
the parts of a
violin.

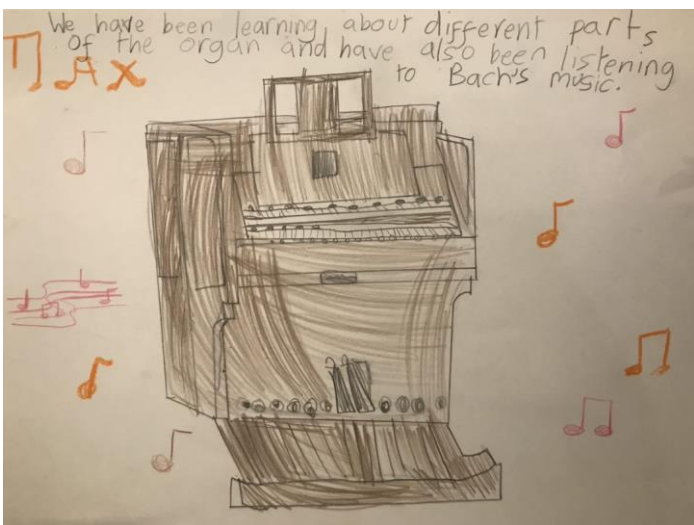


Jay

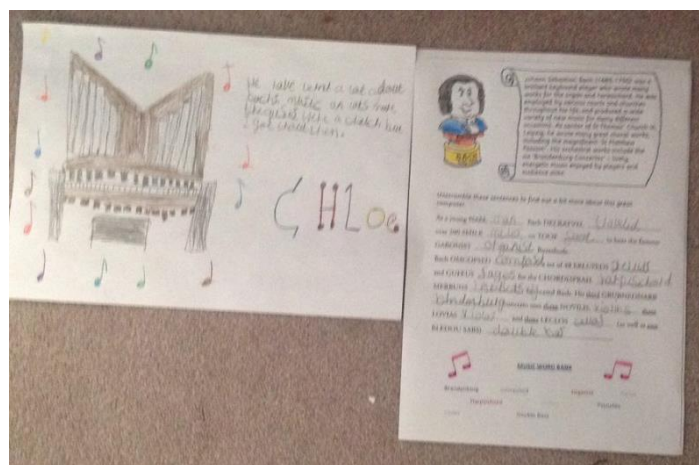


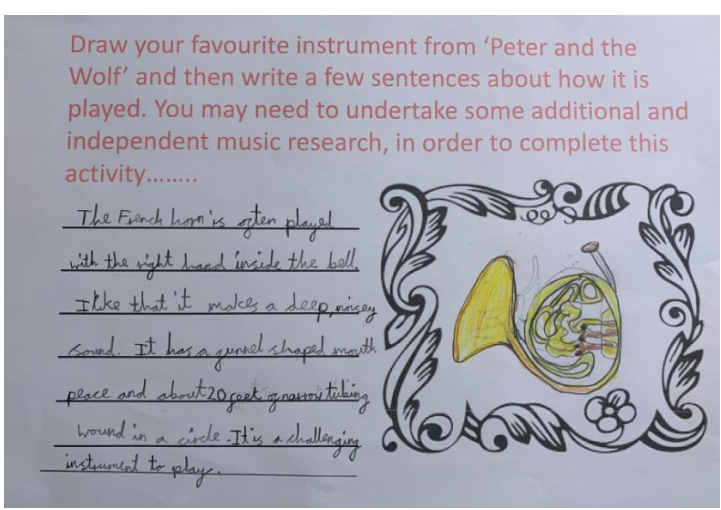
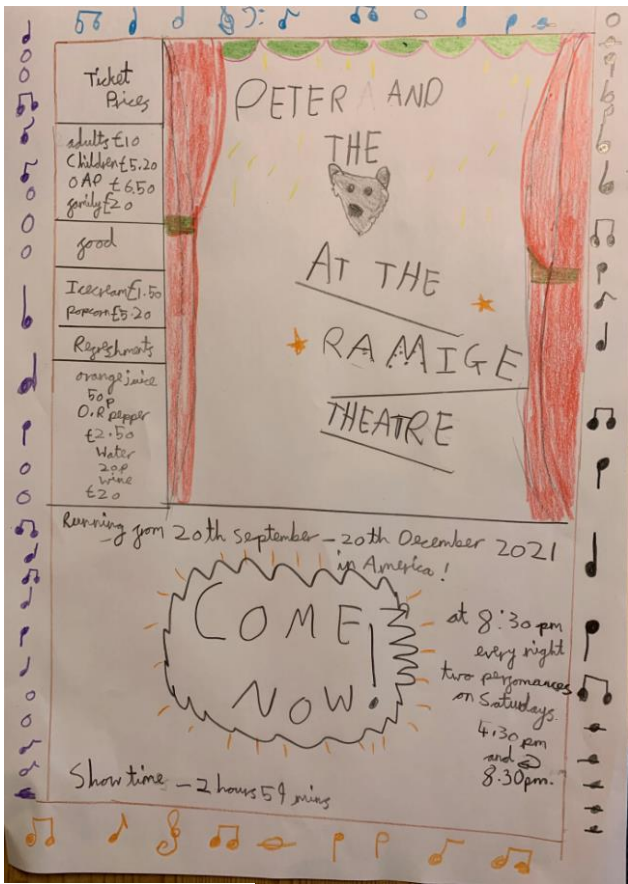
Kayan, Year 3,
successfully
completed his musical
anagrams worksheet.

Max, Year 4, wonderfully artistic
response to the music of JS Bach.



Chloe, Year 4, marvellous research on Baroque Music and Musical Organs.

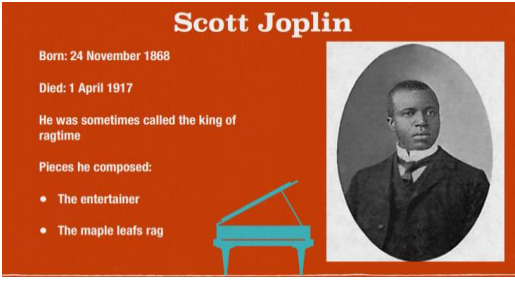
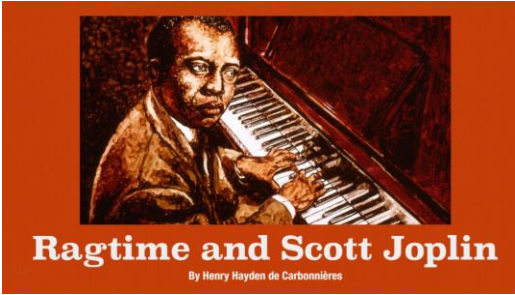
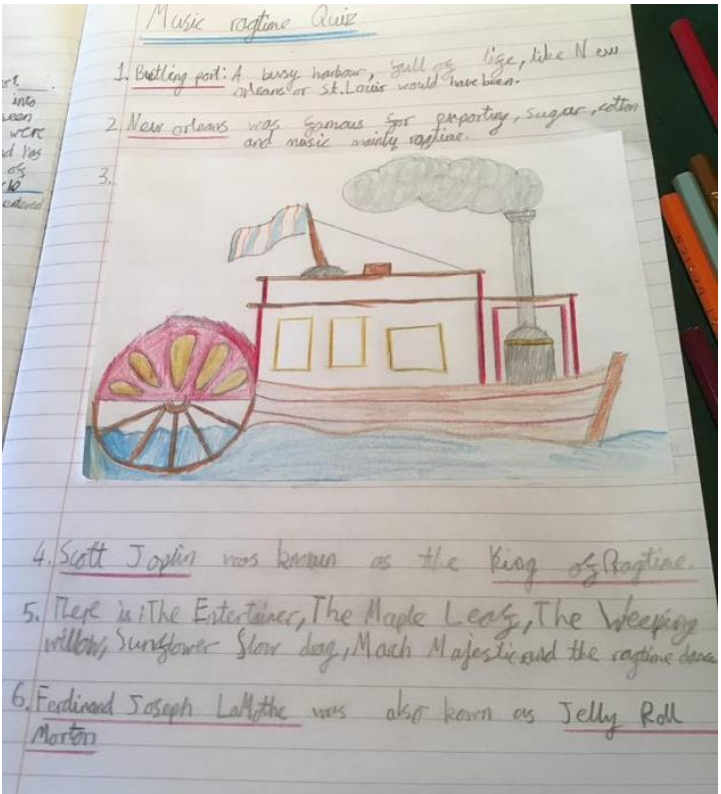




Mayan, Year 3, concert poster and music research.



Henry, Year 5, fantastic research on Ragtime Jazz Music and Paddler Steamer picture.



Sam, Year 5, terrific New Orleans's Paddle Steamer picture.



PE with a Twist

This week the Upper Juniors have been taking part in the Get set for PE family activities. Link below if you would like some fun ideas for this weekend:

<https://www.getset4pe.co.uk/ResourceBank/ResourceCategory/1002>

Keeping up the balloon, add it on dancing, socks in pots and the swamp game have been very popular. It has been lovely to see the enthusiasm and creativity of the pupils using toys, socks, toilet rolls and pets to complete the fun games.

The Lower Juniors started the week with a few of these games and enjoyed a scavenger hunt for their live session, they too were very creative with their finds with E for eggs, S for Sophie and C for Chinese writing!

There is now an option for a workout for lesson 2 each week with a range of cosmic yoga, Joe Wicks and Mr Hudson's very own workouts to complete. These are also available with many other PE resources on our PE page on Firefly.

Don't forget there are 2 PE sessions for all Y1-6 pupils each week to come along and join in with, it is important to keep active and have fun.



OUR WORLD PHOTOGRAPHY CHALLENGE



Following on from the amazing artwork being made remotely, we are launching a new Photography challenge on the theme of 'Our World'. We have so much to celebrate in 'Our World', from nature and animals to our favourite hobbies, people and places.

Take on the challenge of creating a photograph to share with our Royal Russell community and show us where you are finding inspiration whilst working remotely.

The Photography challenge is an opportunity to build on our Photography skills and to get creative in our home communities. You could take your photo in your house, in your garden or at your local park - working safely nearby to your home. All photographs will be shared in an online gallery.



Art Tip - Upload your photograph at original size for best quality. Aim for sharp, clear photos!



All entries must be uploaded to Firefly by **Monday 22nd February 2021** or emailed to Miss Ciccone cciccone@royalrussell.co.uk.

We will have a winner in every phase.

Good luck, everyone!

