



Dear Children and Parents of Class 3,

I hope that this letter finds you well in these strange times. I have loved hearing what some of you have been up to and would love to continue hearing of/seeing your adventures! I have been busy eating lots of new concoctions that have been cooking up in the kitchen, attempting to bake (with varying degrees of success) and completing a 4 year, A3 sized tapestry/labour of love (pictured to the left)! I've also had my hands full trying to keep those trouble making giraffes busy and out of trouble...

Our topic this half term would have covered the life and art of Vincent Van Gogh, with a scientific overview of plants. I have sent out some activities for you to continue to busy yourself with as well as the curriculum overview on the next page with some further ideas to keep those brains whirring... These suggestions are by no means exhaustive and, as always, I welcome your creativity.

Home Learning

I hope that you have been kept busy with the workbook and blank exercise book that were sent home in the last few days of school. In some of the contact I've had with individuals, it's been lovely to see how these activities have led to further exploration and learning! I have tried my best to ensure that these activities could be completed on a computer, printed out to be completed or completed using a blank piece of paper (such as from your exercise book) to make them as flexible as possible. If you are completing them electronically (or if you are printing), please do feel free to adapt them to suit (e.g. making font bigger/smaller, adding more lines, editing pages to include other learning you have done).

30 Day Maths Challenge- some of you will be familiar with this, having received one at Parents Evening in February. I would recommend finishing that one first and using this new one as your 'part 2' (don't worry, you will still receive your prize when we return to school!). For those of you who haven't already received one, it is very much what it says on the tin: 30 pages of maths with the challenge of completing it in 30 days. Some pages might be easier than others, some may need a guiding hand of an adult, but they are all maths topics we have covered in class this year.

The Giraffes' isolation diaries – Gillian has been busy writing her very own diary! I would recommend allowing children to attempt this reading comprehension independently before going through it with them afterwards (I will also send out an answer sheet). The plan is to alternate sending out Gillian or Geoffrey's weekly diary with a set of questions following the same format each week.

Banana Muffin Maths – as you'll read in Gillian's diary, we (like many others!) have been busy baking! Some of you may have already done a similar activity with your own baking/cooking by doubling or halving quantities and this is just an example of the plethora of maths that can come from a list of ingredients...

5 Cs Challenge – a set of foldable booklets with Monday-Friday challenges to keep our Willow Brook 5 Cs in mind.

Plant Diary – hopefully, you'll be able to get your hand on some variety of seed (e.g. sunflower, avocado stone, cress, tree cutting), some sort of pot (a plastic cup with a hole in the bottom would be perfect!) and some soil (a handful from the garden would work, but compost is ideal). I would recommend planting more than one seed if possible...as back ups! The diary/workbook I have created is a suggestion of how you might record your seeds growing and some activities to think about whilst you're waiting for yours to grow! However, if you wanted to record your learning and observations in a different way or format, that is of course fine too.

I hope, above all else, that you have remembered my parting word that I repeated in the last few days we had together: kindness. If you have stuck to that one word, you have made me a proud teacher. I have been missing each and every one of you greatly, and so have Gillian and Geoffrey. We will meet again soon 😊

Miss Brearey

Gogh, Gardening and Giraffes...



As language specialists we could...

I'm sure you have already finished your school reading so please make sure that your reading and dino books are kept safe for our return to school. In the meantime, enjoy the wealth of reading around you! As I always say, **any reading is good reading**: recipes, children's books, poetry, the back of your cereal box, magazines... Mrs Ballard, in her newsletter, signposted a wonderful website (<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home>) which has a huge range of online material for every ability. I've also been filling my Kindle to keep me busy! Read about how Gillian and Geoff are getting on in isolation through their weekly diaries and answer questions about what we've read. Use dictionaries and/or the power of google to understand new words. "Unprecedented" might be a good word to start with! We will continue writing a daily diary of our thoughts, feelings and activities using neat handwriting and good spelling. Write a poem about **anything** around us...nature, the news, our thoughts or feelings...A lovely poem to get you thinking and provide you with a structure is Beauty by Edwina Matthews. If you're missing our weekly spelling test, use the first 100 high frequency words (<https://www.highfrequencywords.org/hfw100fp.pdf>) to practice reading and spelling, making sure that these key words are firmly embedded. Or, if you fancy a challenge, use the national curriculum's spelling list for Year 3 and 4 (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/239784/English_Appendix_1_-_Spelling.pdf_page_16), choosing 10 spellings a week to practice and be tested on!

As mathematicians we could...

Recap our learning from Year 3 (with the help of the 30 day maths challenge) so far including the 4 main operations and the formal calculation methods taught (column addition, subtraction and multiplication and bus stop division). Through baking/cooking, practice our measuring skills and put maths into a practical context. Measure using ml/l, g/kg and understand what these units look like (e.g. how much does 250g of flour look like? How can I use that to estimate how much an apple weighs?). Practice telling the time to the nearest minute using digital and analogue clocks and use this to solve simple problems (e.g. cookies take 20 minutes in the oven, what time will we take them out? Our walk was 10 minutes long, what time did we start?) Go on a shape hunt around the house/garden/local environment-what 2D and 3D shapes can you find and name? What properties do they have (edges, vertices, faces)? We **will** master our times tables!

Across the curriculum we could...

As expressive artists

Use paint, crayons, pencils to express our thoughts and feelings. Draw the plants, flowers and wildlife around us using whatever materials we have to hand. Vincent Van Gogh and his fellow impressionist artists did a great job of capturing the beauty of nature! Vincent Van Gogh's self portraits could also be a wonderful inspiration to creating self portraits yourselves.

As musicians

Vincent Van Gogh is described as an Impressionist artist. There are also lots of musicians who are described as impressionists. Listen to some of their music (my favourites are Debussy, Ravel and Vaughan Williams). What does impressionist mean and how do music and art show this?

As computer specialists

Learn how to send emails, attaching pictures of what we've been up to, to Miss Brearey and/or Mrs Ballard. Create weekly/fortnightly newsletters or reports using publisher or word to manipulate images and text.

As fitness experts

Joe Wicks continues to be a wonderful resource that I have avidly been following myself but there are plenty of other resources to keep you busy if it's not your style...Go Noodle, a walk around the block, running riot in the garden...

As historians we could

Research the artist Vincent Van Gogh. Where and when did he live? Why is he famous? How much are his paintings worth now? Where can you see his paintings? Did he meet or know any other famous artists? Who was he inspired by? Who was inspired by him?

As geographers we could...

If we go for a walk around the village, why not draw the route on a map for a friend to follow? Revise our geographical knowledge from Term 3 on rivers, mountains, counties and cities of the UK by drawing maps, using atlas' and/or google maps, creating quizzes! *KS2 name and locate counties and cities of the United Kingdom, geographical regions and their identifying human and physical characteristics, key topographical features and how some of these aspects have changed over time]]*

As scientists we could...

If we were in school this half term, our topic would have been plants! If you haven't already, you could become a budding gardener- apple pips, avocado stones, tree cuttings or seeds from the shops would all be a fantastic growing project! Drawing labelled diagrams of your plant, explaining how they are growing, comparing them to other plants you have seen... (see the plant diary file). You might want to supplement/support this learning with other resources- I would recommend using BBC bitesize (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zyv66fg8>) *KS2: identify and describe the functions of different parts of flowering plants: roots, stem/trunk, leaves and flowers; explore the requirements of plants for life and growth (air, light, water, nutrients from soil, and room to grow) and how they vary from plant to plant; investigate the way in which water is transported within plants; explore the part that flowers play in the life cycle of flowering plants, including pollination, seed formation and seed dispersal*

Knowledge of the World

Newsround is a wonderful place to hear about news that isn't corona virus related and is updated 3 times a day, 7 days a week! Write a response to what you've seen, any questions you have about/to the people in the report, do further research on a story that interests you...

Citizenship

I'm going to be sending out a 5 Cs challenge to help you think about continuing to be Willow Brook great! The 5 Cs have always been at the heart of what Willow Brook is and, even though we're not together, we can still keep those 5 Cs going.

Ambitious thinking

Vincent Van Gogh only sold one of his paintings whilst he was alive. Why do you think that was? Why have his paintings become more popular since his death?