



WELL DONE EVERYONE

As pupils continue to complete lessons at home, thank you so much for your continued efforts to make these arrangements work well. We appreciate that it is really difficult to manage your own commitments alongside home-based learning and that turning your kitchen table into a classroom wasn't part of your plan for the new year. Despite these challenges, we think that you are doing a fantastic job! We hope that the lessons and learning activities are working as well as possible and that you feel supported by the school through the provision on offer. We look forward to being able to offer classroom-based learning for all pupils as soon as possible, although we know that this will not be before Monday 8th March at the earliest, and that this date is yet to be confirmed by the government. With this in mind, we are keen to evaluate provision, to build on what is working well and identify any ways that we can improve. Along with this newsletter you will receive a link to a questionnaire, and we would be grateful if you could take a few minutes to share your views. Thank you.

YEAR 5 & 6

Pupils in upper KS2 have been learning about Ancient Greece this half term. Having read lots of myths, they have gone on to write their own and have also retold the Trojan Horse story. More recently they have been working on instructional writing, associated with their baking in design technology. This morning, pupils have learned to make olive bread, initially writing instructions for the process and then using them to make their bread.



HOW TO MAKE OLIVE BREAD

Thank you to Alex for sharing his instructions on how to make olive bread.



1. Gather ingredients, equipment



2. Pour 500g Strong Bread Flour



9. Chop Olives into quarters



10. Add Olives



3. Add 1 tsp sugar



4. Add 1 tsp salt



11. Stir ingredients to form a ball, flour work surface



12. Knead dough for 10 minutes



7. Add 3 tsp Olive Oil



6. Stir together



13. Oil baking tray



14. Cut out dough balls



7. Add 3 tsp Olive Oil



8. Add 300ml warm water (200 ml cold: 100 ml boiling water)



15. Make into hat shape, tucking in bottom



16. Place dough balls on tray



17. Prove for 1 hour and place in oven (200C) to bake for 10-11 minutes



18. Enjoy your scrummy buns!!

YEAR 3 & 4

Lower KS2 have been learning about World War II in their history lessons. They have learned about what it was like for evacuees and pupils have made their own evacuation labels. Some went even further and dressed up as evacuees and posed looking very sad. In DT the class has been looking at rationing recipes and the children have made wartime carrot cake. They have also been looking at different air raid shelters and Eden made a model Anderson shelter as an extra piece of work. In science lessons, pupils have studied states of matter and the water cycle, with children making PowerPoint explanations or models of the processes. Well done everyone!



YEAR 1 & 2

Pupils in KS1 have been fascinated by the Great Fire of London and have been busy writing diaries, nonchronological reports and stories so far this term. In art, pupils have been learning to weave, first with paper and then with wool, with some fantastic results. In science, the class has learned about materials, with plenty of investigative work taking place at home. Great work guys.



EARLY YEARS

In Early Years, children have been finding out about the season of winter. They have learned about polar bears and written sentences about favourite facts, explored ice and made ice kingdoms, as well as honing their scissor skills by cutting snowflakes. In maths, pupils have been learning about capacity and how much things weigh.



WELLBEING

We hope that you've enjoyed reading *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse* in assemblies this week. The book is full of wisdom and is closely aligned with our school values – love, kindness, hope and peace. We also think that the story offers a great deal of support for our wellbeing and has helped to raise awareness of Children's Mental Health Week. We'll continue the story next week.

In the meantime, we wanted to let you know about a whole school activity associated with the book. Pupils are invited to complete a drawing or painting inspired by the story or alternatively, choose a favourite page from the book and explain why they like it and what it means to them. We'll talk a bit more about this next week. If you're keen to get started, the pages from the story so far are available in class materials on Teams.



North Yorkshire County Council and the NHS have worked together to develop a website to support healthy minds. The site has lots of really useful advice, with a section for young people and a section for parents.



<https://www.thegoto.org.uk>

SAFER INTERNET DAY

With increased use of online communication at the moment, e-safety is more important than ever. Safer Internet Day will be on Tuesday 9th February. This year in the UK, Safer Internet Day explores reliability online and will be celebrated globally with the slogan: *Together for a better internet.*

There's a wealth of useful information available on the Safer Internet Day website, including top tips for different year groups.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2021>

STAFFING

Miss Dinsdale and her partner are expecting their second baby after half term and we wish them all well.

We're pleased to let you know that following a successful recruitment process, Mr Mattison will join the Year 3 & 4 teaching team, leading lessons on Thursday and Friday each week.

PARENT CONSULTATIONS

Although we are unable to hold our spring term parents' evening in the usual way, class teachers will be contacting you by telephone over the next few weeks to discuss your child's progress, achievements and learning priorities. These consultations will be available on the following dates and times:

Class	Date	Times
Early Years – Nursery and Reception	Wednesday 3 rd March	1pm to 6pm
	Thursday 4 th March	4.15pm to 6.15pm
KS1 – Year 1 and Year 2	Tuesday 2 nd March	1pm to 6pm
	Wednesday 3 rd March	4.30pm to 6.30pm
KS2 – Year 3 and Year 4	Monday 1 st March	4pm to 6pm
	Tuesday 2 nd March	4pm to 6pm
	Wednesday 3 rd March	1pm to 3pm
KS2 – Year 5 and Year 6	Monday 1 st March	4pm to 6pm
	Thursday 4 th March	1pm to 6pm

Please e-mail the school office (admin@rg-schools.org.uk) by Monday 22nd February to let us let us know the time and date that would suit you best. If you are able to provide a couple of times, that would be helpful. We will allocate appointments and will provide an approximate time for your consultation.

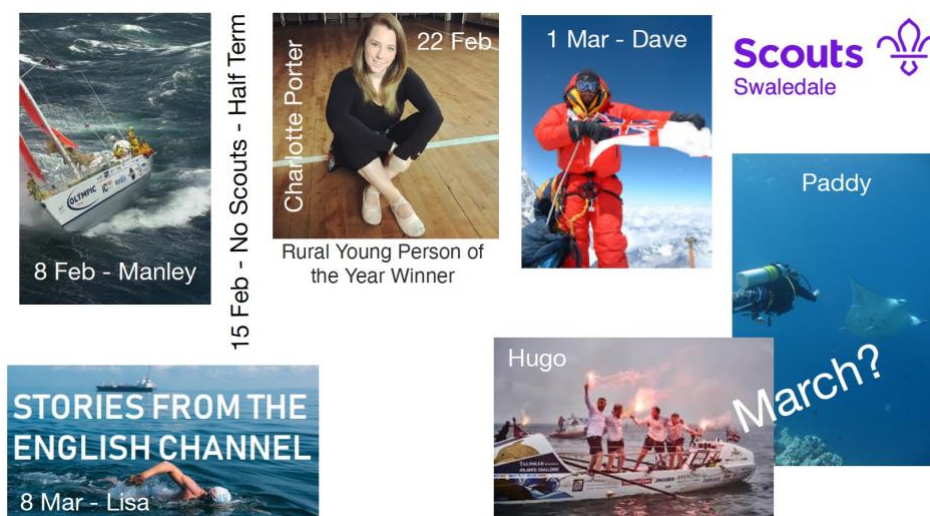
CHARITABLE DONATIONS



Thank you to all those who sent donations into school at the end of last term for the Children's Society. These totalled £137.

SCOUT OPPORTUNITY FOR YEAR 6 PUPILS

Having met the Chancellor of the Exchequer at a Scout meeting last year, the group goes from strength to strength with meetings every Monday at 6:30pm and a busy programme of guests:



- Manley – round the world race skipper and Magnetic North Pole race winner
- Charlotte Porter – of Dance Studio at the Station
- Dave – Mount Everest summitter, ex Royal Marine and survival expert
- Lisa – swam the English Channel and Straights of Gibraltar.
- Hugo – recently rowed the Atlantic in a team of 4
- Paddy – hobby is swimming with sharks and other marine species (he’s also been to the North Pole in a submarine)

For more information please contact Richard Tarran, Scout Leader (07866 410616, richtarran@aol.com)

METHODIST CHURCH DISTRICT YOUTH DAY – SATURDAY 27th FEBRUARY

The Darlington Methodist District, of which Gunnerside Methodist Church is a part, is holding an area wide 'Courageous Day' for young people (aged 8-23). The day will be a mix of on-line opportunities to meet other children and activity suggestions to be done from home.

You can now register for the Courageous Day 2021 (27th February) "Grow | Travel | Transform" to receive meeting links and all the other information about the day:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/128871226307>

There's a video about the day too:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TIF6c2J36kQ>

Although school is not fully open, we are keen to support all pupils and families as much as we can. If there's anything that we can do to help, please do not hesitate to contact us.

G. Stainsby

Gordon Stainsby
Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Feb

Fri 12th School closes for half term

Mon 22nd School re-opens with continued provision for all classes via MS Teams

March

Fri 26th School closes for Easter

April

Mon 12th Staff Training Day

Tues 13th School re-opens

