

Dear Parents,

It was fantastic to catch up with you all on the phone last week and to hear such positivity during these unusual times. Please do send some photos of what your child has been achieving recently and we will be hoping to put these up on the website to share with each other – artwork, crafts, sports and exercise, cooking or project work would be brilliant.

I hope everyone is now working on their Mayans project. This should be treated as a whole half term project, so there is plenty of scope for lots of interesting detail under each of the sub-heading that you decide to do. There is no need to just stick to the ones I have suggested – let your research take you in whichever direction fascinates you most. There will be prizes once we are back together for the most interesting or little known facts! If you are struggling for further ideas, try these: what animals they lived alongside in the rainforest; the names and character of the different gods they worshipped; the language that they spoke. Then there is the big question – why did they die out and disappear in the 15th and 16th centuries? Happy learning!

If you haven't managed to take a look at the UK government's Oak National Academy yet, try that this week. There is good amount of age group specific lessons and resources on there, all very easy to use and thoughtfully presented. It is organised by age group, so select the level that you think is appropriate for your child. For Maths this week there are lessons on reflection and translation (Year 5), fractions and decimals (Year 6). There are some reading comprehensions to do, and some interesting history lessons – you could find out about King Edward I (Year 5) or how Hitler rose to power in between World Wars I and II (Year 6).

I can see from looking on Classroom Secrets Kids that some of you are yet to log on at all – there are maths games and reading comprehensions to try so do please have a look.

For Science – we had started looking at the heart and human circulatory system before lockdown began, so you could continue to investigate how our blood gets around our bodies. BBC Bitesize and Twinkl both have excellent resources on this with films and Powerpoints to help you learn. Try taking your own pulse and then investigating what happens to it when you exercise. Record your results. What affect do different types of exercise have – gentle walking compared to a 1 minute sprint, for example? What about star jumps or skipping? You could create a table for your results, and then draw a graph or bar chart to represent them too.

Keep up the spelling and times tables practice as well!

I hope everyone is still safe, healthy and happy. I do appreciate everything that you are all doing to keep your children engaged, interested and amused in very challenging circumstances and understand that it is sometimes difficult and frustrating. I do sincerely hope that we will be able to get back together as a class in the not too distant future. I look forward to calling again next week and hearing about all the things you have been getting up to.

Stay safe and keep smiling.

Mr Sharp